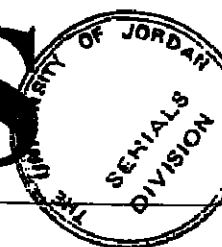


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WHO CARES ABOUT PARKS?

A royal heritage
laid waste

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TWO REFS TO SHOUT AT

Greater control on
the football pitch

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SUITS FOR SMARTY PANTS

The vamp is back
in Fashion Review

Saturday Review

'People in the market who should have known better' anger prime minister

Major turns his fire on Bonn for ERM chaos

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT, AND JOHN PHILLIPS

A DIPLOMATIC rift opened between Britain and Germany last night after John Major and Norman Lamont blamed Bonn's economic policies for the plunge of the pound and the troubles in the European exchange rate mechanism.

Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, responded with a furious attack on Mr Lamont as the prime minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer made plain that there would be no imminent return to the ERM.

Britain would not resume its membership until the mechanism was run "in the interests of all the countries of Europe", Mr Major declared as he broke his silence on the sterling crisis that has prompted the abandonment of the central plank of his economic policy. The prime minister also indicated that the legislation ratifying the Maastricht treaty would not be brought back to the Commons until next year, irrespective of the outcome of tomorrow's referendum in France.

It also emerged that the prime minister is set to call a

summit of European heads of government in London soon after the French vote. Italy, France and Germany have been pressing for such a gathering.

Mr Major said in a series of television interviews that Britain could not return to the ERM until the "fault-lines" revealed by the extraordinary movement of currencies in the past few days had been repaired. Authoritative government sources are now saying that it could be months before Britain returns. One Euro-sceptic minister was reported to have remarked that Britain could resume membership "only over the dead body of half the cabinet".

The extraordinary breach in relations with Bonn came after Mr Lamont said in a BBC Radio interview yesterday morning that Britain would not go back into the ERM unless Germany changed tack. "We want to be satisfied that German policy, which has produced many of the tensions within the ERM is actually going to have some changes and be able to operate within a more stable environment," he said. "I want to ask some questions about the

way in which co-operation between governments works."

Mr Major has set much store in building a close relationship with Herr Kohl. However, the government's irritation at the way in which Germany has stubbornly kept its interest rates high has now burst into the open.

Mr Major clearly endorsed Mr Lamont's attack and defended his Chancellor.

He said that he did not believe the crisis was Mr Lamont's fault. "I think it is quite unreasonable to blame the Chancellor for a market movement of the sort we have not seen for over a quarter of a century." In a clear reference to remarks by Bundesbank officials, he spoke of the "catalyst of remarks in the market from people who should have known better, that there might be a realignment."

Herr Kohl was told of Mr Lamont's remarks in Florence, where he was attending an Italian-German summit, and he hit back angrily, saying such remarks were "inappropriate for a minister" and "childishly simplistic. It is highly unusual for a government head to attack a senior minister in another country."

Giuliano Amato, the Italian prime minister, weighed in on Herr Kohl's behalf, saying that it was naive to blame the Germans, as the Italian press had done. "Believing there is always a bad guy with a big stick who hits the little guy belongs to the world of three to five-year-old children," he said. Herr Kohl said that what was true of the Italians also followed for the British.

John Smith, the Labour leader, mocked Mr Major's remarks. "It won't do to be blaming the nasty foreigners or blaming the system or seeking to put the responsibility on to others, because the plain fact is that Britain has been revealed as being in the second division of the European Community," he said.

"The fault does not lie in the actions of others or in the system. It lies in the economic policies that Mr Major and his colleagues are following."

Mr Lamont emphasised his inclination to stay out of the ERM for some time and also raised hopes of further limited cuts in interest rates. "We are floating and we will

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Currency crisis, pages 2-3
French poll, pages 4-5
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and letters, page 15
ERM cracks widen, page 19



French resistance: a Parisienne ignores a poster offering forthright advice for voters

Polls point to 'yes' as franc feels the strain

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN PARIS

FRANCE closed its official referendum campaign last night with private polls showing a margin of about six points in favour of Maastricht and pleas from the great and the good to the citizenry to save Europe and its financial system from dislocation.

As fevered last-minute appeals showered from opponents and supporters of European union at home and abroad, the financial markets took some assurance from private surveys reporting about 53 per cent of decided voters on the "yes" side. The vote had slipped back a point yesterday after a blip in the wake of news of President Mitterrand's prostate cancer, they said. However, with about 20 per cent undecided or planning to abstain, the outcome could hang on the turnout tomorrow for the eighth referendum in the 34-year history of the Fifth Republic. The law bans publication of polls in the final week and rumours of more negative soundings continued to flood nervous markets.

A senior French pollster said last night that common figures among all six polling firms showed that "the 'no' cannot win on Sunday. If it does, this will be the first Waterloo for the French polling business." He added that he discounted rumours that the national intelligence service was predicting a no. If that was true, he said, it would merely mean that its methods were unscientific.

Government and opposition leaders cited the currency turmoil, which yesterday began afflicting the franc, as a warning of far worse to come should citizens swim with the populist tide of rejection and heed the call for a

"non". Pierre Berégovoy, the prime minister, and his team have been using the language of catastrophe to depict the impact of a "no" but some opposition advocates were milder. "A victory for 'yes' would help to restore confidence," Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former president, said. "Rejection would aggravate the crisis and risk its spreading to other currencies." Jacques Chirac, whose Gaullist RPR party has been torn apart by the referendum, said a "no" would "weaken and isolate France. The monetary storm shows we need more of Europe and not less."

Campaigning for his home country, Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission, said: "France is at the top of the European rope. If it falls, you can guess what will happen to everyone else." The Bank of France intervened yesterday to support the franc as it came under speculative pressure.

The markets believe that, although backed by a relatively strong economy, the currency could be forced downwards in the event of a "no". Among other statesmen, Mikhail Gorbachev appealed yesterday in an open letter for a "yes" for the sake of the "construction of a new, more creative and more fraternal world".

In one of the strongest calls from the unanimously pro-Maastricht establishment, Jacques Lesourne, director of *Le Monde* wrote yesterday: "For France and Europe, a 'no' in the referendum would be the biggest catastrophe since the disasters brought on by Hitler's rise to power."

Such warnings were rejected. Continued on page 18, col 1

Treaty reports, pages 4, 5

TURMOIL IN EUROPE: ON OTHER PAGES

A tous les Français: in a leading article directed at the French electorate, *The Times* says: "Your message to your leaders tomorrow should be a clear 'non' on behalf of France and of all Europe." Page 15

Danish lesson: will the French vote "yes" to Maastricht? Robert Worcester recalls how support for the "yes" camps declined in the immediate run-up to the Danish and Irish referendums. Page 4

After the storm: there is a curious sense of relief at the Treasury after the whirlwind but Norman Lamont now needs luck and resilience to survive, Peter Riddell writes. Page 2

Saved by the rules: the fine print in the new post-Thatcher Tory party rules mean that John Major cannot be challenged by dissidents for the leadership until November 1993. Page 2

Pathetic Albion: Britain has been getting little sympathy for its handling of the European currency crisis. Led by the Germans, many commentators say that Britain's problems are home-made. Page 3

French delight: while the rest of the EC cannot wait for France to make up its mind on Maastricht, the French rather like the idea that their country is putting the wind up the rest of Europe. Page 14

Irish ayes: chaos in the foreign exchange markets threatened to engulf the Irish punt yesterday but the canny Irish fought devaluation off with interest rates of 1,000 per cent - and the punt closed higher than sterling, at just under 99 Irish pence per British pound. Page 19

Shares surge but pound drops

By GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES surged yesterday on hopes of more base-rate cuts to come after the pound's exit from the exchange-rate mechanism. By the close, the FT-SE 100 index was up 83.1, at 2567, almost 200 points up since the close on Tuesday night when base-rate increases were feared as the pound hit its old floor in the ERM.

The markets drew only one conclusion from Norman Lamont's statement: "We are floating and we will set monetary policy in this country to meet our objectives and it will be a British economic policy

and a British monetary policy."

The City senses a turnaround in policy towards kick-starting the economy with cheaper money. Economists believe that interest rates could fall by two percentage points to 8 per cent in coming months.

Lower interest rates would help industry, raise confidence among consumers, help the housing market and ease the debt burden built up since the 1980s boom was quickly ended by high-interest-rate policies.

The pound, however, fell to

a new low against the mark, closing at DM2.6100, down 2.23 pfennigs on the day. That represents a devaluation of 11.5 per cent from the old ERM midpoint of DM2.95 which applied until Wednesday evening. Against the dollar, the pound slipped by 2.15 cents to \$1.7435, a level far more helpful to British industry than last week's \$2.

Money markets, too, began to anticipate cheaper money. Future markets were looking for 8.5 per cent base rates by the end of the year.

Pound drops, page 19

How Britain poured £15 billion down the drain

Was John Major willing to risk all to go down fighting rather than admit that the game for sterling was up when it became obvious a day earlier? Anatole Kaletsky reconstructs the week's events

Britain's treaty commitment to maintain its ERM parity until the Bank of England's official closing time at 4 pm. But if the decision to float the pound had been taken at the emergency meeting held that evening in the Chancellor's Treasury office, Britain would have avoided the loss of between £15 billion and £20 billion of its approximately £25 billion foreign exchange reserves.

According to British sources the main reason for refusing to devalue as early as Tuesday night was the government's reluctance to renege on its ERM commitments to European partners. "If we had called for a realignment or suspension as early as Tuesday night, the others would

have said we had not yet done all we could to defend sterling," one key official said. However this account does not square with the strong signals had been sent out throughout the past month by the Bundesbank and the German government, indicating that Germany was actively urging Britain to realign. In fact, the immediate trigger for the sharp fall in sterling on Tuesday lunchtime was a news agency story that the German economics ministry was calling for another ERM realignment after the small devaluation of the lira announced on Sunday night.

There seem to be two other possible explanations of the government's decision not to devalue on

Tuesday. One is that some of its advisers still felt, against the evidence, that there was a sporting chance of holding out until the French referendum at the weekend. The other is John Major did not want to admit he was abandoning the defence of sterling, preferring to go down fighting in the market against overwhelming odds.

The end for sterling came quite suddenly, around 11 o'clock on Tuesday morning. Until that point, "everyone was confident we would get through to the weekend" according to one trader. Sir Terence Burns, the permanent secretary of the Treasury, and Eddie George, the deputy governor of the Bank of England, "appeared to be very relaxed" according to one foreign source who spoke that morning to both men. The Bank of England was taking advantage of the

Continued on page 2, col 4

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History's message to the man at No 11: the worst is yet to come

NORMAN Lamont was sitting at his computer screen in the Treasury when interest rates were raised by two percentage points at 11 am on Wednesday. At first, there was no reaction and he walked away for a moment. When he returned, the screens showed the response all too clearly: the pound was still in serious trouble. The attempt to stay in the exchange-rate mechanism was failing.

It had crossed his mind that something like that might happen. Floating had probably become inevitable by Tuesday evening, but senior ministers decided that they had to honour the spirit of the ERM's rules to show that Britain was trying to defend its parity. Hopes of getting through until the weekend were abandoned by Wednesday lunchtime, and the sec-

CHANCELLORS UNDER PRESSURE

As Norman Lamont takes refuge in calm after the storm, Peter Riddell says his respite is short-lived

and rise in interest rates was just to buy time until the evening.

Yet now there is a curious sense of relief in the Treasury. The mood is relaxed. The rest of the cabinet has been sympathetic and supportive. It is like the calm that follows a violent storm.

In previous financial crises, there has often been a lull immediately afterwards. The government argues that its basic goals are unchanged and the cabinet puts on a display of unity. After a few days, the mood changes.

Politicians and the press realise that the change of policy involves pain. Those responsible for the earlier policy come under increasing criticism and resignations usually follow. Some previous chancellors have survived but their reputations have been severely and often permanently damaged.

There are two keys to survival: restoring market confidence and retaining the support of cabinet colleagues and backbenchers. Floating may permit some very limited easing of monetary condi-

tions that have been tighter than Britain would have liked. But ministers are worried that unrealistic expectations may be developing about how far interest rates can be cut.

Mr Lamont's main political test will be his handling of the Commons debate next Thursday and the party conference two weeks later. Although Mr Major and the cabinet are at present rallying behind him, that is no long-term job guarantee.

He will need luck and determination to survive as Chancellor: a move to another cabinet post is just as likely. The precedents are not comfortable.

The November 1967 devaluation was, like Wednesday's floating of the pound, the culmination of a long struggle. Events then were as messy as

those of the past week. An imprecise answer in the Commons by James Callaghan, the Chancellor, led to heavy selling, and a loss of between £150 million and £200 million to reserves.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff defended the decision robustly, rather better than Harold Wilson, the prime minister, did. Richard Crossman described his Commons statement on devaluation as "a brilliant success". However, this was a smokescreen. Lord Callaghan had already told the prime minister on the day of devaluation that he wanted to resign as Chancellor, but not from the government.

Meanwhile, the government came under increasing fire in the Commons, and in the press, and questions arose about the prime minister's survival. So he decided to



Shared experience: Lords Callaghan and Healey

before the economy turned round and market confidence was restored.

The 1976 crisis was longer drawn out because the pound was then floating. There were a series of episodes — interest rate rises, an international credit and, finally, recourse to

the International Monetary Fund. The subsequent cabinet debate exposed deep divisions within the Labour leadership, which contributed to the party's turmoil after its defeat at the 1979 election.

Denis Healey survived through his robustness, aided by the polite restraint of Sir Geoffrey Howe, his shadow. He managed to turn the tables as confidence improved in 1977. However, the scars of 1976 probably ensured that he never became Labour leader.

He later recalled that a favourite topic of discussion when he was a student communist was "Who will do the dirty work under socialism?" He later discovered that the answer was "Denis Healey". Mr Lamont must feel he is having to do the dirty work under Majorism.

Lamont faces rough ride from Tory rank and file

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

THE economy and Europe are set to dominate the Conservative party conference in Brighton next month with the grass roots of the party calling for slashed interest rates and a permanent withdrawal from the ERM.

Conference organisers have allocated a double session for foreign affairs and Europe, reflecting the high number of motions submitted for debate, many of which raise fears of an over-centralised Europe.

Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, faces a rough ride on the Thursday when he replies to a debate calling for the government "to continue to

Another motion simply urges the government "to slash interest rates and get people back to work".

David Mellor, the heritage secretary, may also have an uneasy time when he replies to the first debate on national heritage at a party conference. Mr Mellor will speak on the party's "commitment to improving the quality of life and protecting the heritage of our nation" to mark the creation of the new department.

Launching the conference agenda at Conservative Central Office yesterday, Sir Norman Fowler, party chairman, said that there would be ample opportunity for all views to be expressed in a full debate.

While refusing to expand on what Mr Lamont had said in his interview on Radio 4 yesterday, Sir Norman made clear that the government would pursue an anti-inflationary policy and hinted at lower interest rates. He was also confident that the party activists would rally round the Chancellor and the prime minister. "I understand that industry and commerce would want to see interest rates continue to go down. The Chancellor will have to take these decisions in the light of the circumstances that are there," Sir Norman said. "We have got a new policy. The pound is floating. Interest rates are back down to 10 per cent. Party conference dele-



Hands full: Sir Norman Fowler, Tory party chairman, launching the conference agenda at Conservative headquarters yesterday

gates will take the view that under difficult circumstances we have taken the right decision."

It was the government's intention "to make the conquest of inflation our number one aim", he said. "One of the successes of the government is that we have low inflation in this country. We have also got lower expectations of wages and earnings than I can remember for many years."

John Mason, the conference chairman, predicted an interesting and very lively conference, saying that participants would be honest and tolerant. "Voluntary workers have a clear sense of realism about the difficulties and problems but the conference gives our representatives a proper platform to express their views."

Of the 196 motions submitted for the foreign affairs debate, 180 relate to Europe. However, the motion chosen for debate encouraging the government to continue to build an outward-looking Community fails to reflect many of the critical resolutions sent in by Conservative associations. Many are critical of a federal Europe and one of them calls for a referendum on Maastricht.

A motion from Luton South calls on the government to ensure that "the shackles of State socialism so successfully rolled back during the past 13 years are not reimposed by a Federal Europe".

Another from Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire, urges the government to "resist all proposals to create a federal super-state".

Others call for strict controls over the "bureaucratic tendencies of the unelected Commission" and an end to "interference in the nooks and crannies of British life by unelected bodies overseas".

Seventeen subjects have been chosen for debate with home affairs being the most popular topic with 215 motions submitted for debate.

The perennial call for the introduction of the death penalty, tougher penalties for joy riders, action against travellers and the reintroduction of canteens in schools are also mentioned.

Sir Norman said that he would be meeting Baroness Thatcher to discuss her attendance at the conference next week, though it is unclear how much of a platform she will be given. "We will make arrangements to receive Margaret Thatcher. She will get the applause I would expect for a leader regarded with some affection inside the party."

Sir Norman said that unlike the Labour and Liberal conferences, there would be no need for a post-mortem about the election. "The party recognises the prime minister's central role in that election victory and the conference will make that clear."

Rules bar challenge this year

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

ACCORDING to a report circulating at Westminster yesterday, one senior cabinet minister has hazarded the view that John Major would take Britain back into the ERM only over the dead bodies of half the cabinet.

It was an unconfirmed but plausible remark, indicative of the attitude among Tory MPs now towards the once-revered mechanism.

An immediate return would unleash a huge revolt on the Tory back benches, and some opponents have been heard to whisper that

Mr Major's leadership would face a challenge.

Mr Major is, however, safe for some considerable time. New rules for electing Tory leaders, brought in after Baroness Thatcher's downfall, prevent a contest until the start of the next session of parliament, likely to be in November 1993, after the present session.

Some MPs had thought that a challenge was permitted up to October 27, because one rule says that an election can take place up to six months after the assembly of a new parliament, which happened when MPs met on April 27. However, requests for such an election must be made within three months of the new parliament's start. The deadline passed on July 27. Any MP wanting to embarrass Mr Major must wait until the next session.

Baker finds a role with Tory rebels

By Arthur Leathley

EURO-SCEPTIC forces at Westminster, hoping that tomorrow's French vote will herald victory in the Maastricht debate, are likely to line up behind a new general in their fight to kill off the treaty.

Kenneth Baker, the former home secretary, has presented himself as the obvious new leader of a backbench campaign to sway John Major's government from its pro-European stance. During the recess, Mr Baker has been vociferous on Europe, showing his potential as a painful irritant to a government anxious to dampen backbench opposition.

In the run-up to the French referendum, his comments calling for a slow-down on Europe have made Tory Euro-sceptics more confident. Yesterday, he told Norman Lamont not to rein in the exchange-rate mechanism.

Calling for Britain to take charge of its own destiny outside the ERM, he went further than many backbench colleagues in demanding a cut in interest rates to six per cent. "We are now in charge of our

own interest rates and the Chancellor should reduce interest rates. He should make a start by reducing them today," he said on BBC Radio 4's Today.

His calls, during future Commons debates, for a slowing down on moves towards a fully-integrated Europe will not be shrugged off easily by a government which has previously belittled the influence of the Euro-sceptic lobby. In the absence of a minister prepared to oppose government policy publicly, Mr Baker represents the anti-Maastricht faction's next best alternative.

Mr Baker's reputation as one of the party's most eloquent and persuasive media performers is seen by Tory rebels as good reason for him becoming the most prominent dissenting voice. As former party chairman, he can still exert considerable influence over the Thatcherites. He may also be able to help stiffen the resolve of those new Tory MPs, some of whom have already tentatively aired doubts over Maastricht, but who might waver.

His main difficulty is that he might be discredited by some ministers as "yesterday's man", bearing a grudge against Mr Major for being swept out of office after the last election. In June, Mr Baker in the Commons publicly challenged Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, to modify the Maastricht treaty and slow the pace of its ratification. Since then, he has written newspaper articles proposing an end to the treaty in its present form and supporting the French "No" campaign.

Baker: speaking for backbench critics

Gould asks Smith to change tack on ERM

DIVISIONS over Europe within the Labour party were highlighted again yesterday when Bryan Gould challenged John Smith to rethink the party's policy on Maastricht and the exchange-rate mechanism (Jill Sherman writes).

Labour should oppose Maastricht and sterling should not go back into the ERM before fundamental changes were made to the system, he said. In an interview in the *Evening Standard*, Mr Gould, the shadow heritage secretary, said: "My advice to the party — which I am not optimistic of being accepted — is that we should oppose the treaty. For all the faults of the ERM, the government was saved from the consequences of its own folly by the market."

Mr Gould, who argued strongly against Maastricht during the Labour leadership contest, said the treaty would plunge Britain into deeper recession, rising unemployment "and all other things that have generated this sterling crisis". He argued that the pound should not return to the ERM without changes to the mechanism to make "a much more symmetrical pattern where the obligations on the Germans to cut rates are just as strong as on other countries to raise them".

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, later supported the principle of exchange-rate co-operation. Speaking on BBC

Radio 4's *The World at One*, Mr Brown said: "It is important to recognise that the process of working within Europe had got to continue."

The policy of a floating exchange rate, a Thatcherite policy, was not one that commended itself to the Labour party, he said. "We are agreed that the principle of exchange-rate co-operation is a good one and managed exchange rates are absolutely necessary. I do not think that Bryan Gould would disagree with me."

Mr Brown argued nevertheless that there needed to be strong controls over speculation right across national frontiers. Conceding that the future of Maastricht was uncertain, Mr Brown said it was imperative for the government to spell out its counter-inflationary policies and make a clear statement on its economic policy.

Earlier Mr Smith wrote to the prime minister accusing him of choosing the "inflationary option" by allowing the pound to be devalued by 10 per cent.

"For two years you have been telling the British people that all of the pain they have suffered from recession — soaring unemployment, bankruptcies and high interest rates — was solely designed to achieve the 'great prize' of zero inflation."

BOSNIA & CROATIA NOVEMBER 1992 CHILDREN WILL FREEZE TO DEATH

"A few short weeks from now freezing fog, sub-zero temperatures and snow will arrive in Bosnia and Croatia. When this happens tens of thousands of refugees, already suffering the effects of war, will be at even greater risk. They will die from exposure or, because the roads are impassable, they will simply starve. As ever it is the children who are most at risk" says David Grubb, Executive Director, Feed the Children.

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Continued from page 1
optimism by intervening tactically to boost sterling and encouraging the banks with which it dealt to publicise this around the market.

Around 11 o'clock, sentiment suddenly changed. According to some dealers, the catalyst was the Reuters report about Germany calling for a realignment. Others say the market was rattled when the lira suddenly fell through its newly devalued midpoint in the ERM. Large institutional currency funds were trying to liquidate their lira portfolios. The peseta also fell through its ERM midpoint. According to one trader, the Bank of Spain had felt so relaxed earlier that morning that

it did not even notice at first when its currency plunged.

Investors began to feel that the new ERM rates agreed on Sunday were not holding. Suddenly, nobody in the market wanted to buy any of the vulnerable currencies, including sterling. By 11 o'clock, the Bank must have started to sense trouble because it started to disguise its intervention as ordinary commercial buying. But the selling pressure built up. By 1 pm, some of the best-placed dealers began to realise there were simply no genuine buyers left for sterling. The Bank of England stood alone.

"Everyone was hitting them with sterling," according to one dealer. Any

private bank that got a selling order from a client began to pass it immediately to the dealers at Threadneedle Street, signalling a collapse of market confidence in the pound.

Although the weight of sellers was not as great as it would be the following morning, and the pound was not at its absolute ERM floor, the game was up, although most of the market did not yet realise it. One official adviser, when asked that afternoon whether he would copy Mr Major and change his travel plans, replied: "What more can we do, whether we go abroad or stay at home?"

Despite sensing the futility of its defence, the Bank continued to buy

heavily throughout the afternoon, trying to keep the pound above its ERM floor to disguise the fact that it was the only buyer left in the market. An increase in interest rates was considered at various stages throughout the day, but officials with a feel for the market argued that raising interest rates would only confirm the government's desperation. That was, in fact, exactly how the market interpreted the 2 percentage point rate hike announced on Wednesday morning.

By the time the government raised rates again to 15 per cent, even the least well-connected City analysts concluded that the government's defence was about to collapse.

German press hails Mark, heroic victor in currencies battle

THE German government rallied round the battered European Monetary System (EMS) yesterday as the German press hailed the strength of its national currency and indulged in boisterous Schadenfreude over the plight of sterling.

Although *Deutschland über alles* may not be sung in polite official circles, yesterday even the more staid newspapers were close to crowing: "Deutschmark über alles". Helmut Kohl, worried that the strength of the mark might frighten French voters to reject the Maastricht treaty tomorrow, made reassuring noises from Italy where he was discussing Europe with Giuliano Amato, the Italian prime minister. The German chancellor, reiterating his faith in European monetary union, said that John Major had already told him that Britain would be re-entering the exchange-rate mechanism as soon as possible. He also called for an emergency EC summit next week to study the lessons of the past week.

Although opinion polls in Germany again show a slight majority in favour of Maastricht, Herr Kohl has ruled out any possibility of holding a referendum on the subject. A nationwide Infas poll found 60 per cent support for Maastricht, while a Sample Institute poll in the west revealed only 32 per cent were opposed to it. A research institute at Leipzig, in the east, found 22 per cent would not support Maastricht, while 42 per cent were in favour.

The polls were taken, however, before the currency crisis, which appears to have confirmed the deeply held view that no Euro-currency can ever be as stable as the mark. Earlier polls have consistently shown over 80 per cent are against giving up the mark, as laid down at Maastricht, because of the danger that a Euro-currency linked to weaker, less disciplined economies would be unable to prevent inflation and economic collapse.

Newspapers of all persuasions yesterday agreed with *Die Welt* that through their stability, the Germans, who provide the anchor of the exchange rate system and who have to worry over its strength, make the decisive contribution by which the EMS operates.

"If others are less successful, the cause is their lack of discipline. Stability begins at home — where else, certainly not in Brussels." *The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* had no sympathy for City bleats that the Bundesbank had precipitated the run on sterling.

"Serves them right for the rumours floated by London stock marketeers aiming to sow uncertainty on German markets," the conservative daily commented. The leading financial paper, *Handelsblatt*, was no less restrained. Blaming the Bundesbank president for what happened "is a grotesque overestimation of his power," the paper said. "The problems are all home made ... The British, who first fully entered the system two years

WORLD VIEWS

The world's media are showing little sympathy for Britain's 'home made' problems

ago, brought in their currency with far too high a rate of exchange. But the mass circulation *Bild* captured the general mood, in which even Theo Waigel, the finance minister, joined. He argued that the turbulence of the past week showed the need for a Euro-currency for which the strong mark "must become a symbol". He predicted, too, that "the interest rate in Germany can sink again — provided we hold down government spending and wages". His brief guest column got little space, however, compared with that devoted to the new national hero.

"I'm called Mark and my family goes back to ancient times," the hero wrote in what amounted to his guest column. Stuttgart Kickers may have beaten Leeds United 3-0 in the European Cup on Wednesday, but that was nothing to what 'Mark' did to the pound on the same day in what is billed as "the battle of the currencies". Thanks to Mark, Germans can now buy cheap Florentine handbags, go for cut-price salmon fishing holidays in Scotland and get British life insurance for 30 per cent lower premiums than German ones. Leather jackets from Spain are 15 per cent cheaper, textiles from France are down by the same amount. Dutch tomatoes and Danish furniture are 10 per cent cheaper. Polish turkeys and Czech bread rolls are being delivered into Germany at rock bottom prices. When the EC internal market opens up next year things will be even cheaper, and all thanks to Mark.

Mark tells his family story. "Grandpapa Mark lived from 1871 to 1923. Then he died of consumption ... people said he had 'gross inflation'. Papa Reichsmark was ruined by the Nazis. Died 1948 — currency reform. 'I came into the world on the same day. Everyone wants to smuggle up to me. English, Swedes, Spaniards.

The Italians are the most passionate. "Will I disappear in six years? Noooo! I prefer to believe that the new Euro-money will be called D-mark. Because I am so strong. Anyway, D-mark somehow sounds better than 'Hey cow' (Ecu)."

Italy

The Italian prime minister, Giuliano Amato, sprang to the defence of Chancellor Kohl for Germany's handling of the currency crisis during his visit to Rome. "Believing there is always a bad guy with a big stick who hits the little guy belongs to the world of three to five-year-old children," said Signor Amato.

Italian newspapers were divided over the likelihood of John Major's government surviving this week's financial crisis intact (Philip Willan writes). "The currency crisis will have serious political consequences," the *Turin daily La Stampa* reported from London. "Major is defending the Chancellor but, sooner or later, Lamont will have to be sacrificed."

"The market won in the end and sterling has been devalued in a situation dominated by chaos and incompetence," said the Milan-based *Corriere della Sera*.

The Rome daily *La Repubblica* said that Mr Major and Mr Lamont could yet save their political careers "because they have distanced themselves not only from the EMS but from the whole edifice of the EC". The two men would claim credit for pulling Britain out of the EMS while drawing a veil over their own roles in the decision to join in 1989.

France

Le Figaro (conservative) said: "John Major has obeyed the same reflex as Edward Heath when he pulled sterling out of the 'serpent' in 1972: both of them threw to the winds the principle of stability in foreign exchange. ... Anglo-Saxon monetarism obeys other principles than the German one. But all European construction was founded on a common concept: monetary stability and convergence of economies. This credo has now been brutally thrown into question." (Charles Bremner



Goodies and baddies: Giuliano Amato, Italy's prime minister, condemned press criticism of Germany's handling of the currency crisis. "Believing there is always a bad guy with a big stick who hits the little guy belongs to the world of children," he said. Chancellor Kohl said that Signor Amato's comments applied equally to British critics. "What is true for the puppet theatre in the Pincio [in Rome] is true also for London"

writes). "This revives an old national cliché: when Great Britain joins a club it does so only to better sabotage it."

Le Quotidien (conservative), said: "The successor to Margaret Thatcher is paying today the political price of an unrealistic economic policy. This was the political decision two years ago to fix sterling exchange rates with the DM which the experts considered were too high."

Libération (left-chic) said Britain's crisis only confirmed the need to move to monetary union. *Le Monde* (centre-left technocrat) said the British and Italian action had caused the EMS to "explode". The Bundesbank was right, it said, "to argue that it is and will be impossible to maintain indefinitely exchange rates fixed between countries with economic situations as different as those of the EEC".

Japan

Japan has watched the currency turmoil in Europe with considerable unease, its newspapers devoting the front pages of their morning and evening editions to the crisis (Joanna Pitman writes). But there have been strong signals that the Japanese, often accused of burying their heads at times of international crises, are viewing the problem simply as "a fire on the other side of the river".

Prime minister Kiichi Miyazawa told a news conference yesterday that he does not expect interest rate fluctuations in Europe to affect Japanese rates, but implied that he was concerned about the possible political ramifications of ongoing events. Japanese businessmen are worried that

the prolonged confusion in EC currency markets will lead to a stalemate in intra-regional trade and cross-border investment, which turn adversely affect EC economies.

Belgium

The Belgian press, which strongly supports closer European union and a single currency, denounces market speculators for unleashing a whirlwind but does not appear to think that the ideals of the Maastricht treaty are in danger. "The Belgian franc stays solid," reported *La Libre Belgique* yesterday with an almost audible sigh of relief. The paper's commentators and the finance minister Philippe Maystadt said that the only real protection from such financial turbulence is faster monetary union while down-

playing the fact that Belgium's enormous public debt at present disqualifies it from the single currency foreseen in the Maastricht treaty.

AUSTRALIA

Australians love financial sagas with a human element. Under the banner headline "Money Markets Go Berserk" — a rare editorial outburst in the serious *Sydney Morning Herald* — the story of Europe's financial nightmare was spread across the entire front page. A grim-faced John Major was pictured with a London policeman, alongside a young trader caught praying in the London Futures Exchange.

SPAIN

El Mundo newspaper in Madrid said yesterday: "The

Third World War has broken out. The British, in their desire to find a scapegoat for their monetary blunders, have accused the Bundesbank."

Sweden

Dagens Nyheter, Sweden's largest morning daily compares John Major's plight to that of Harold Wilson, who was forced to cave in to market forces in 1967 after brave words in defence of sterling. Today, prime minister Major is "humiliated" an editorial said.

IN BRIEF

Esso leads way with rise of 5p

Petrol could rise by up to 10p a gallon next week as the drop in the value of sterling takes its effect on the oil companies, who deal in dollars on the world market.

Esso led the move to higher prices yesterday by increasing four-star by 5p to 240.5p a gallon (52.9p a litre). Diesel goes up by 6p to 217.8p a gallon (47.9p a litre) and unleaded petrol to about 221p (48.5p a litre). Shell and BP are waiting until Monday.

Shell said: "It is painful at the moment on the forecourts. The price of oil and petrol is pretty stable but the fall in value of sterling against the dollar is hurting a lot."

Shops avert price change

High street prices are unlikely to change as a result of the sterling crisis, retailers predicted yesterday. The Retail Consortium said stores had plenty of stock on their shelves because of the slowdown in spending, and companies were reluctant to alter prices until the financial climate was more settled.

Large stores such as Rumbelows and the Currys/Dixons chain said they were watching exchange rates closely.

ERM opposed

More than six out of ten private shareholders believe Britain should stay out of the ERM, according to a telephone poll conducted yesterday on 1,000 clients by Sharelink, a Birmingham-based telephone dealing service.

Fewer cars

Figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders show car production in August fell more than 7 per cent to 52,943, with exports down 24.32 per cent at 23,136. Commercial vehicle production totalled 12,437 models, 48.8 per cent up on August 1991. Half the vehicles were for export.

No takers

Ladbrokes lengthened odds against John Major being replaced as prime minister this year from 3-1 to 4-1, after no one bet on him going.

THE SUNDAY TIMES The sterling fiasco

Wednesday, September 16, was the most extraordinary day the financial markets have ever seen. Having brought the lira down, the speculators zeroed in on sterling. By



night-time, despite the threat of 15% interest rates, sterling had gone too and the ERM was in ruins. What is the fall-out? For the chancellor, for the government, for business, for homeowners and for savers?

Tomorrow's Sunday Times provides the most detailed guide on what happened and why, and analyses the impact

Sinking pound takes the spirit of Dunkirk with it

THERE was a time when a national crisis would send millions of Britons rustling in their pockets for a stick of lip-stiffener. Now, many seem to feel they have been down for so long there is little point in pretending any more.

The depths of despair and shame plumbed over the past few days seem to have been alleviated only by the fact that many felt that Britain had slumped so low already that it had very little further to fall. The *Times* sent reporters across the country to assess the national self-esteem. By and large, it is wilting.

"Considering we're meant to be a great nation it's funny how we always end up at the tail end of everything," said Wendy Sandall, 35, a marketing assistant in Newcastle. "The Germans always seem to end sunny side up — not us. We always have egg on our face. The nation had a 24-hour coronary the other day, a crisis, but no one seems to have any answers. Well I do. We have to get out of the ERM, away from the notion of Europe and back to producing things and proudly stamping them with 'Made in Great Britain'."

John Patrick, 32, an insurance broker from Alfreton, Derbyshire, thought Britain's reputation abroad probably had been damaged: "I cannot

BRITISH VIEWS

Joe Joseph checks out the nation's ego and finds it in urgent need of a massage

see how anybody looking at recent events will say that Britain is great."

Emily Crowley, 26, a management consultant from Wimbledon, south London, said: "Britain is in danger of being left behind. Once again we are the weak nation of Europe."

Francoise Benson, 27, a student from Nottingham, said: "I am not really bothered about what the rest of the world thinks, but I am sure that the way things have gone we must be the laughing stock of Europe."

Satie Sethi, a senior college lecturer from Southall, west London, said: "It is awful that one man's pride or a government's pride should have so utterly stood in the way of doing months ago what was good for the nation. I think we have all been made poorer by what has happened."

Alan Ridgway, an engineer

from York, said: "No one can plan for the future and, as for a loss of British prestige, I don't see much prestige to lose."

Sanjay Patel, 27, a newsagent, born in India and now living in Haslemere, Surrey, said: "I was not proud to be British on Thursday because the people who are supposed to run the country weren't doing their job. We probably are a laughing stock for the Germans, but other countries will probably end up like us."

But there are pockets of punchier spirits. Audrey Bainbridge, a Conservative county councillor from Buckinghamshire, said: "I think that now we have come out of the ERM, maybe the British can show the world what they can do in spite of it. In a quirky sort of way there is a sense of relief that the British can do their own thing and take charge of their own economy."

Keith Hobson, 38, an Aberdeen accountant was even more upbeat. He said: "I don't think it has affected my patriotism because we have shown that we will stand up to the Europeans and refuse to be dictated to by a foreign bank."

"Yet again Britons have had to make a stand and, hopefully, show the correct way forward."

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Leading lady: Elisabeth Guigou, European affairs minister, who has led the "yes" campaign

How snapshot surveys can blur reality

OPINION POLLS

Although the French are traditionally pro-European, tomorrow's turnout will be crucial in a referendum that could go either way, Robert Worcester writes

THE French are pro-European, or so the opinion polls tell us. In June, we read reports that the French would have voted by 70 per cent to 30 per cent for their government to ratify the Maastricht treaty. Now will they? Well, yes and no.

Over the years, successive soundings of public opinion in Denmark showed the Danes (along with the British) to be the reluctant Europeans. Torn between their traditional loyalty to their Scandinavian cousins and fear of German domination, and their wish to play an economic role in the Common Market, the Danes have blown hot and cold on closer links with the European Community even more than the British.

If any country was likely to vote against the thrust of the closer monetary and political ties suggested by the Maastricht accord, it was the Danes. As the Danish referendum on Maastricht on June 2 grew nearer, wide levels of support in the Danish polls for closer ties grew steadily weaker during a peak of effective campaigning by those opposed and a superior, "we know what's best for you" stance by those in favour.

The final polls, published

on the eve of the Danish referendum from field work taken two and three days before, showed a likely narrow vote for ratifying the treaty. As we learn the day after, the final verdict was 50.7 per cent against, 49.3 per cent for Maastricht. The far was in the fire, and the profound results are evident in worldwide concern over the French vote tomorrow.

Ireland was always a different matter than Denmark or France. Ireland, one of the countries which most benefits from EC subsidies, especially under the common agricultural policy, and a country still dominated in its politics by the farming vote, has always shown wide support for integration with other community countries, especially if it weakens Irish dependence on British markets. More than three in four Irish people said they would vote to stay in the

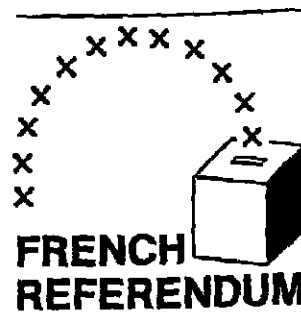
European Community if a referendum were held on that issue, a Mori poll in June. The European showed in June, and only 11 per cent said they would vote to get out, a 7-1 margin, one of the widest of any EC country.

Yet the polls conducted during the Irish referendum on Maastricht on June 19 — which started off with 70 per cent yes, 30 per cent no, and then narrowed — failed to forecast the final result of 61 per cent to 39 per cent. Why? Three reasons: first, polls never, except by accident, predict the future. They are only a snapshot at a point in time; a thermometer, not a barometer, of events; second, if as wide a margin as 2-1 is what late polls show, people know they can safely "send a message" and vote for the other side of the issue; third, the public, and especially the media, reacts to polls published during election campaigns, and the public reacts to the reaction.

The French referendum tomorrow has been marked by a plethora of poll reports, seven in one day a fortnight ago, which have shown a steady slide from the 70 per cent to 30 per cent start to a narrow margin ten days ago, showing 56 per cent for and 44 per cent against (perhaps showing reaction to the possibility of a "no" vote) to a wafer-thin 52 per cent for and 48 per cent against, published in *The Daily Mail* yesterday and carried out on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Publication of poll figures is banned in France in the final seven days of a campaign. This is why French and foreign banks, money dealers and stockbrokers there, here and elsewhere have commissioned French pollsters to carry out "private" polls for their own use first and then leak them to the media. This has led to the media publishing such polls abroad.

The French equivalent of the City knows the results, the public, and especially the media, reacts to polls published during election campaigns, and the public reacts to the reaction.



are kept in the dark, unless they listen to the international broadcast media.

The French referendum campaign has cut across the boundaries of politics. Some people have used the opinion polls to register a protest vote against an unpopular Mitterrand government; others have been "don't knows", which until recently have been as high as 40 per cent of the electorate. This week's turmoil in the exchange markets may prove to be crucial. If the franc had taken the punishment of the pound and the lira, it would be a safe bet that it would have turned the tide against Maastricht, and that would have killed the ERM.

The campaign has been a passionate one, with Elisabeth Guigou leading the

"yes" campaign, pitted against Philippe Seguin for the "no" turnout will be crucial, as will the centre-ground supporters' antipathy for being on the same side, against Maastricht, as the Communist party and Jean-Marie Le Pen's National Front. If they stay at home tomorrow instead of voting "no", the "yes" may, narrowly, have it. If they vote, it will go against.

What polls across Europe have shown, conclusively, is that people want to be consulted, to have their say about these momentous issues. Across the Twelve, even in Luxembourg where so many of their citizens are employed by the EC, by 2-1 they say they want a referendum on Maastricht, as have the Danes, the Irish and the French. Mori's poll in Thursday's *European* from field work earlier this week showed that 61 per cent of the British want their say, and only 16 per cent say they want parliament to decide. It may be tomorrow that the French will speak for Britain.

Robert M. Worcester is chairman of Mori, and visiting professor of government at London School of Economics.

EC bigwigs careful not to be caught out celebrating

By JOE JOSEPH

PARTY TIME

For those who believe the European Community's main purpose is to squeeze the fun out of life, tomorrow night might be a useful time to gather evidence.

If you happen to hear some Cole Porter fan crooning *What a swell party this is*, they probably won't be singing it in French. Parisians are not planning to have swell parties for fear that before the champagne runs out they might be having to sing: *Did you hear about dear France, got run down by an avalanche*.

Community bigwigs are scared of being caught carousing should voters decide to turn their backs on Maastricht. They are just as anxious about making a big fuss over something that they are pretending is something of a formality, merely an opportunity for the French to reaffirm their commitment to the EC.

President Mitterrand is likely to be at the Elysée, panicking in private with a posse of advisers, although the interior ministry will be holding a discreet gathering. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the right-wing National Front leader, plans to stay at home in St Cloud, on the edge of Paris, to watch the results on television, although journalists who drop by will be given pastis and polemic.

Giscard d'Estaing, the former president, will attend a Paris soirée organised by his opposition centre-right UDF party. Elisabeth Guigou, the European affairs minister, will vote in Avignon and return to Paris.

The British embassy has decided against a referendum razzle but our diplomats will be waiting up to relay their impressions to London.

Lady Thatcher will be attending a dinner in New York on Sunday night on a private tour of America, but she will keep in constant touch with developments. However, she is expected to keep her views to herself.

John Major and Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, who probably will not have that option, will be in London. Norman Lamont will be grateful to be in Washing-

ton for the International Monetary Fund annual meeting.

John Smith, the Labour leader, will also be in London when the result is announced, after attending the Battle of Britain memorial service in Westminster Abbey. Having seen in April how awkwardly post-vote parties can backfire, he will be keeping abreast of the news in private.

Tony Benn, who has been making plenty of noise about the treaty, will be making some more. He appears tomorrow on a Sky News programme about Maastricht.

But even the Bruges group of Tory Eurosceptics has decided not to organise a whoop-or-weep party.

The mood in Brussels is never known for its social zip, is gloomy: no big parties. With the federal dream under threat, no embassy or commissioner or multinational firm wants to risk looking like they are celebrating the treaty's downfall. In Brussels it is politically incorrect to favour the 'No' faction. It is barely acceptable to be agnostic. Sceptics do it in private.

The European Commission headquarters will be open, with a commissioner. Belgium's Karel van Miert, on hand for reaction. The commission promises French TV relays but no champagne.

Jacques Delors, the EC president, will be somewhere in Paris and a sweat. Sir Leon Brittan is flying back to Brussels from Teeside tomorrow, but hasn't quite decided yet how to spend the evening. Most EC embassies will be burning midnight oil to send dispatches to their capitals, having been bitten once, already by the surprise of the Danish referendum result.

Most EC the foreign ministers will be in New York for the UN General Assembly. Douglas Hurd and Roland Dumas do not plan to fly to Manhattan until Monday morning. The 12 members of the EC plan to meet in New York later that day, apparently irrespective of the result.

Overseas ballots could sway result

By OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PROCEDURE

AFTER weeks of passionate campaigning, and countless opinion polls, 38 million French people finally get the opportunity to vote on the Maastricht treaty on European union tomorrow. The question they will be faced with is: "Do you approve the draft law submitted to the French people by the president of the republic authorising the ratification of the treaty on European union?"

Voters have to place a "yes" or a "no" slip in an envelope and put it in a ballot box. Polling stations open at 8am local time. The first polls in rural areas will close at 6pm, and those in cities and towns at 8pm. Interior ministry figures show 38,039,841 eligible voters registered. Each

has been sent the full text of the treaty.

Voting in France's overseas territories will be out of step due to local time differences. The 350,000 voters of Martinique and Guadeloupe in the Caribbean, (nearly 1 per cent of the electorate) will be able to vote up to six hours after polls close in metropolitan France. Overseas votes could thus make a crucial difference if the contest is close.

TV and radio stations will broadcast computer forecasts based on partial returns from the provinces at 8pm local time and a provisional final result will be issued at about midnight.

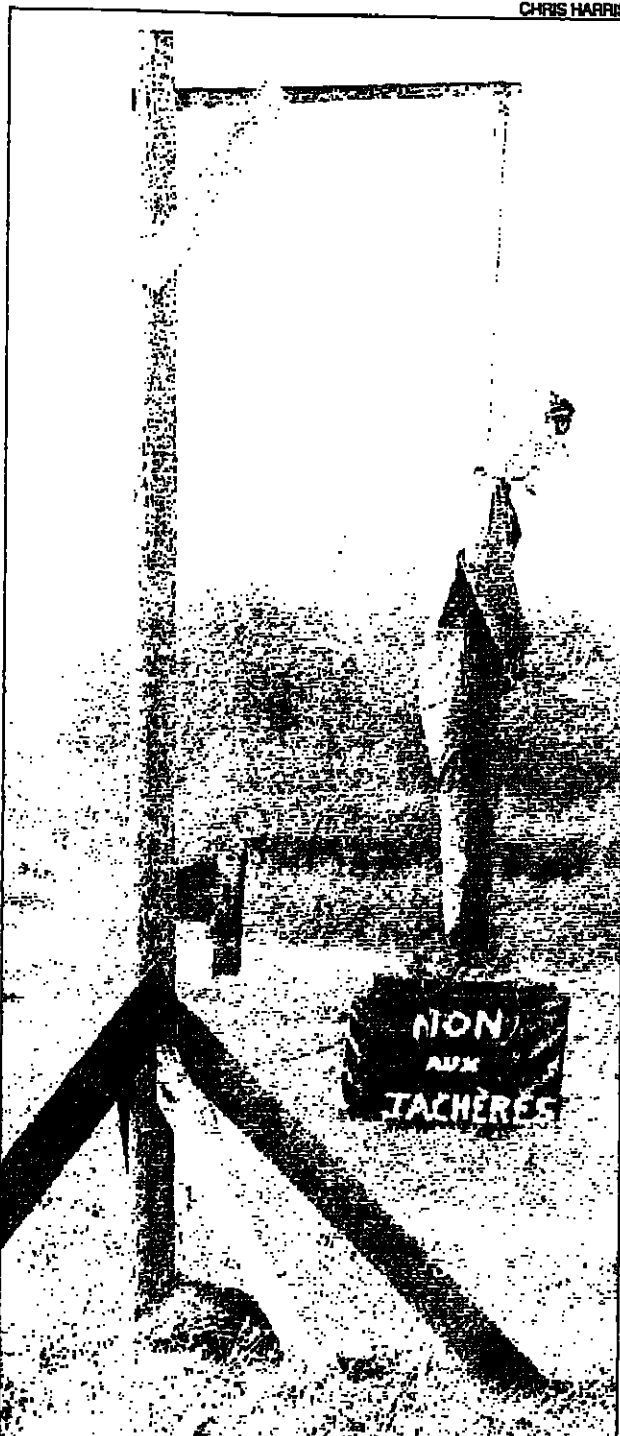


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Body politic: a Mitterrand effigy hanging near Marseille, where farmers' opposition to Maastricht is strong. The slogan says "no to fallow land"

TV sticks to sex and royalty

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THEY cleared schedules for the Gulf war. They cancelled programmes for the general election. But for the French verdict on Maastricht, Britain's four main television channels have not thought it worth their while to reschedule such Sunday night blockbust-

MEDIA

ers as *The Night Stalker*, *The Lost Boys*, *The Club*, *The Monarchy*, *Derrick* or *The Rosary Murders*. They are not alone. German television will not be broadcasting any special Maastricht programmes, nor will the Dutch.

In Britain, sterling's hasty retreat from the European exchange rate mechanism has diminished the importance of tomorrow's referendum result. Only the most dedicated of those viewers without satellite dishes will be able to watch the results unfold on Channel 4's *Midnight Special*.

As the polls close at 7pm British time and the first exit poll results begin to trickle in, only Sky News, the 24-hour satellite news station, will be there live from both the International Monetary Fund meeting in Washington. Everyone else will have to wait for Jeremy Paxman at 9.50pm with a half-hour *Newsnight* special on BBC2.

Lycée ready for brisk ballot day

By RAY CLANCY

POLLING at the French Lycée in London is expected to be busy tomorrow as the 5,000 French men and women living in the capital vote on the Maastricht treaty.

The doors will open at 8am and close ten hours later. "We expect most of those who are registered to vote," said a spokeswoman at the French embassy. "It is an important referendum." French nationals elsewhere in Britain should have organised a proxy vote.

An official party has been organised at the French Institute, in South Kensington. Up to 400 people have been

LONDON

invited to watch the debate on French television relayed on two large screens. Bernard Dorin, the French ambassador, and several British diplomats head the guest list.

In the French triangle in South Kensington, the mood was one of indifference yesterday. The treaty was a boring subject, according to French people on the streets.

"The future of France is at stake, not because of the vote but because of Mitterrand's health. Whatever way the vote goes, France will be strong. An unfit president and the possibility of an early election could make France weak," said Roger Rollat, a student.

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THIS was the week that the Marseilles author Jean Conrucci, also a journalist on the city's *Le Provençal* daily, won the Provence grand literature prize, and the week the metro line was extended to La Timone. It was also the week that the politicians came to campaign on Maastricht. But nobody noticed.

The Marseillais are bored and annoyed with their reputation for being France's most violent and criminal citizens. And to be fair, many good deeds went unnoticed in the seven days leading up to yesterday.

But there were 11 dead bodies, and nine people arrested for murder. The director of the zoo was found with his throat cut. A 50-year-old motorist flagged down for speeding pulled a pistol on police officers and was promptly shot dead. A 21-year-old Austrian tourist was raped, then run over by the four-wheel-drive vehicle of her 25-year-old attacker.

It was a slow week at the airport - the customs officers there uncovered just 32lb of cocaine. There was but one armed robbery, and only four people died in fires.

"Let me tell you - Maastricht is not exactly a big event around here," said the gendarme leaning on the open

door of his car on Rue St Ferreol. His partner remembers coming across some people who were handing out leaflets about the referendum earlier in the week. "I think it was Monday. It was that National Front lot again."

There are no clusters of citizens thumbing through the pages of the treaty in the bars of France's biggest port, despite an attempt by Jean-Louis Bianco, the minister for transport, to spur them into discussion. "There is a big debate going on in France because it is a difficult challenge," he tried to explain as he passed through the city to more fertile ground.

Robert Vigouroux, the mayor of Marseilles, has declared himself for the European union treaty, but his constituents express more interest in the plan for a new, American-style, shopping mall. On Monday, M Vigouroux laid the first stone on the site that will become France's biggest hyperstore, surrounded by

MARSEILLES APATHY

The battle for the treaty goes on, but the people of France's great Mediterranean port have other things on their minds.
Sean Mac Carthaigh writes



Vigouroux: mayor who will vote for the treaty

200 smaller shops. Even in the city centre, there is little to indicate that the rest of France has embarked on a debate that borders on the all-consuming.

Léon Decare, 61, a street musician, plays a violin beneath a poster-covered doorway. But only one of at least a dozen bills urged voters to the polls: the National Front wanted a "no" vote. M Decare, originally from Strasbourg, describes himself as

"very European". But he had not read the Maastricht treaty and said that he did not care to. "I do not suppose I will bother voting at all," he said.

Three young heavy-metal enthusiasts listened to his music, and also declared themselves apathetic on the treaty. Only one would vote, and he would vote "no", they said.

The few committed "yes" voters to be found are worried that the weather will deal their side a crushing blow. The Castellais motor cycle competition takes place tomorrow, just a few miles from Marseilles. If the sun continues to shine - and it has not stopped shining all week - the young, potentially pro-Maastricht voters will most likely choose sport over the exercise of their franchise.

The perception of so many Marseillais that Maastricht really will not affect them one way or another illustrates how isolated the city has become from the mainstream of French national politics. And the fact that the political establishment has made such little effort to woo voters among its 800,550 population perhaps shows how far the rot has set in.

French polls, page 1
Charles Bremner, page 14

Town casts a nervy glance at Germany

FROM TOM WALKER IN WISSENBURG, ALSACE

ALSACE

WISSENBURG, population 7,000, is a collection of crooked timbers and sagging roofs, a fairy-tale setting separated from the outside world by the forest of Haguenau to the south and the Vosges mountains to the north.

But tomorrow the town must vote on the future of Europe, and here "Maastricht" is on everyone's lips. Most surveys in France suggest that resistance to the treaty lies in the interior, and that border communities such as Wissembourg, on the German frontier, will vote "yes". But in the streets, nothing is clear. Jean Paule, a gendarme, has not made up his mind. "Does [the treaty] mean I'll have to go and deal with riots in Germany?" he asks. He had tried to watch a television debate the previous night, but, tired with the far-right rantings of Jean-Marie Le Pen, switched over to the football.

Berthe Bayer, 61, has too long a memory to feel comfortable about moving closer to Germany. "I was a refugee in the war. I still don't know about them," she says, pointing east.

On a café terrace, German visitors enjoy the sun. "I think

they'll vote yes," says an official from Steinfeld. "They look up to Mitterrand because he's the boss." Most shopkeepers appear to be in favour, as do the young. "There'll be no more wars - it's the future," says Marc Grossman, 18.

But Christian Gander, local bureau chief for the newspaper *Les Dernières Nouvelles d'Alsace*, says many doubting voters are out of town. Forty per cent of the active population work in Germany, where wages are higher than in France. Many of these workers fear they might have to pay German taxes, thus losing their current advantage. M Gander also says cross-border tensions are high after a number of Germans have bought houses here, a trend that has pushed up property prices.

Jean Hubert, a teacher and writer, says: "I have to admit that the strength of the mark has worried me." He reflects on Alsace's troubled history with Germany. As for tomorrow, he declares simply: "No one knows what is going to happen."

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- Option 3 pays you extra cash, up to £150.00 a day increased benefit when hospitalised in Intensive Care. That's up to £250.00 a Day!
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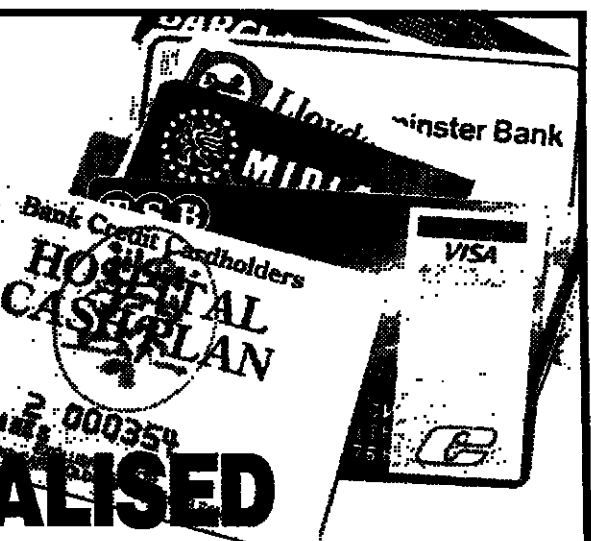
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50-59	£18.00	£32.00	£44.00
60-69	£28.00	£48.00	N/A
70-74	£47.00	£79.00	N/A

OPTIONAL PLAN STANDARD PLAN UP TO £15,000.00 BENEFIT WHEN HOSPITALISED IN 12 MONTHS			
AGE LAST BIRTHDAY	INDIVIDUAL ONLY	INDIVIDUAL & SPOUSE	INDIVIDUAL & FAMILY
Under 40	£4.95	£7.95	£11.50
40-49	£6.50	£11.50	£15.50
50-59	£9.50	£16.50	£22.50
60-69	£14.50	£24.50	N/A
70-74	£24.00	£40.00	N/A

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Bank Account No. _____ Bank Sorting Code _____

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0309

Horse artillery bullies drove young officer to breakdown, court told

By Peter Victor

A FORMER army officer claims that he was so bullied by ten colleagues that he suffered a mental breakdown. Alastair Green is trying to sue the defence ministry, claiming that he was subjected to such abuse while on a short service limited commission with the 7th Royal Horse Artillery that he had a severe psychotic breakdown, the High Court was told yesterday.

Affidavits presented to the court by counsel for Mr Green said that in April and May of 1985, when he was 19, ten officers of the Royal Horse Artillery regiment continually harassed him. Mr Green is also trying to sue those officers.

On one occasion, the court heard, he was dragged along a hallway in his dressing gown, leaving carpet burns on his back. He was taken to the bar where his was stripped while colleagues jeered and laughed. Later, it was said, he was stripped naked and tied to a cannon at the barracks.

While this bullying was going on, it is alleged, Mr Green was forced to drink. In July 1985, Mr Green had a breakdown and suffered schizophreniform psychosis and was treated at the Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Aldershot. In May 1986, he went to Tanzania. While there he suffered another breakdown and was flown home believing that he was on a mission for the SAS regiment. In 1988, he had a breakdown in June and in July had tried to kill himself.

Mr Green, now 26, had planned to serve a one-year commission before studying veterinary medicine at university, but, as a result of his condition, he had to defer entry for a year and then did badly in his examinations, opting instead for a zoology course. At present, the court heard, he was unemployed. The court was told that on a university entrance form he had been described as a

hardworking student, expected to gain top grade A levels.

Ian Ashford-Thorn, for the ministry, and Jonathan Acton Davis, for the ten officers, argued that the case was out of time because more than three years had elapsed since the alleged tort and Mr Green's realisation that he had suffered loss or damage. The ministry and the officers deny the allegations.

Jonathan Marks, for Mr Green, said that he had only realised that the bullying had led to his breakdown in 1988 after discussing it with friends. Mr Green had not believed that his mental condition had been brought on by the attacks because an army psychologist had told him that he had had schizophrenic tendencies from birth.

Piers Ashworth, QC, a deputy high court judge, said that the case could not continue on the basis of affidavits. He adjourned the hearing until oral evidence could be heard.



Great catch: David Gower, 35, the batsman controversially dropped from the England cricket team to tour India, kissing Thorunn Nash, 34, an Icelandic, after their wedding at Winchester Cathedral yesterday

Patten vows to favour opt-outs

By John O'Leary
Education Correspondent

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, last night guaranteed that grant-maintained schools will continue to be funded more generously than those controlled by local authorities.

In a speech to Aldershot Conservatives, Mr Patten cast fresh doubt on the future of some local education authorities, and said that opting out represented the best and most secure future for state schools.

The government's white paper on education, published in July, expressed the hope that eventually all schools would opt out. But many are awaiting details of the new funding regime it promised before deciding whether to leave their local authorities.

Mr Patten said that suggestions that schools could be worse off by opting out were mischievous and unfounded. "I intend to ensure that schools which are accepted for GM status continue to receive funding that recognises their extra responsibilities compared with LEA schools." The future of grant-maintained schools was secure.

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In the 12 years I'd worked in

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attitude of the staff helping us

find it. Even so, I still had my

doubts about the type of work

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For more information please

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Newsboy murder sentences 'sound'

The Home Office and police yesterday refused to comment on reports that a new enquiry into the Carl Bridgewater case has concluded that the convictions of the four jailed men were safe (Stewart Tindler writes). The four were given life imprisonment for murdering the newspaper boy at a Staffordshire farm in 1979. Last year Kenneth Baker, then home secretary, asked Merseyside police to examine new evidence put forward by defence lawyers for Vincent and Michael Hickey, James Robinson, and Patrick Molloy, who is dead.

According to reports yesterday, the police believe that a disputed confession made by Molloy before he died is reliable, and have found a new witness to the confession. The views of defence speech pattern experts throwing doubt on the confession have also been challenged. Jim Nichol, solicitor for the three, called for an enquiry into the way details of the report had been leaked.

Storms moving east

The storms that flooded parts of Britain yesterday and made driving hazardous will batter the east today but elsewhere the weather will be brighter with only occasional showers. The Meteorological Office warned motorists in Dorset, Hampshire and the New Forest to expect heavy downpours, thunderstorms and floods. Torrential rain made many roads dangerous and the A37 from Bristol to Bristol road was closed. Large areas of the Mendip Hills in Somerset were flooded when an inch of rain fell in 20 minutes. Homes in the villages of Pyle and Ditchet, Somerset, were flooded when more than 3ft of water poured through streets. Forecast, page 18

Sikh mother deported

A Sikh mother of seven was deported last night after losing a long fight to stay with her children. Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, ruled that the woman aged 37 must leave in spite of her pleas to be allowed on humanitarian grounds to stay in Nottingham. The family is split because six children were made wards of court in the care of the eldest daughter and cannot be removed without the court's consent. Mr Clarke accused the woman, from India, of making her children wards to prevent deportation.

£2m musical founders

Grand Hotel, the £2 million musical that reopened the Dominion Theatre two months ago with high hopes of leading a revival from the gloom which had enveloped the West End, is to close next month (Simon Tait writes). Paul Gregg, co-producer of the show, said that the production was not drawing big enough audiences to pay the high costs of running a large scale musical in a 2,000-seat theatre. The show was due to be recast at the end of November, but will close at the end of October instead.

Cows kill woman

A woman was trampled to death yesterday by a herd of cows near her home in the village of Fifehead Neville, Dorset. Angela Toller, 55, is believed to have been trying to retrieve her dog from a field. An ambulance was called but Mrs Toller, wife of Tony Toller, an advertising company director, was dead by the time it arrived. A workman near the scene said that a neighbour had tried to help Mrs Toller. "Cows are very defensive when their calves are with them and she said they turned nasty," he said.

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BBC cuts 1,200 jobs and finds £120m more for programmes

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is to cut 1,250 jobs in support services to redirect £120 million of licence fee revenue towards programmes in the next five years, at the same time closing 17 radio studios and 20 outside broadcast units.

The corporation confirmed yesterday that, within 18 months, jobs funded by licence fees will have fallen by 6,000 from the 1986 total to 19,000. It said radio production would be reorganised, with a significant amount of talk programmes moved to the regions to strengthen further the production bases of Manchester, Bristol and Birmingham in their roles as "centres of excellence".

Radio 1's speech-based youth programmes will move to Manchester, following the transfer there last year of Janet Street-Porter's youth tele-

vision programmes. All religious radio output will also move to Manchester, where religious television is produced. Radio drama production and Radio 2 specialist music moves to Birmingham, while Bristol becomes the new site of radio features and natural history programmes.

The radio production shake-up will result in the closure of ten London studios and the move of 48 staff from London to the regions. Two studios in Scotland are to close, with one in Northern Ireland, one in Bristol and three in Wales.

Sir Michael Checkland, the director-general, told department heads and unions yesterday that the restructuring continued "a clear policy of making the BBC more efficient, putting more money directly into programmes and making more BBC programmes outside the South East of England".

A total of £150 million will be cut over the next five years but £30 million of that is needed to make up a shortfall resulting from last year's licence fee settlement. Sir Michael said the remaining £120 million would go into television and radio programmes.

The job losses affect engineers, cleaners, caterers, personnel workers and other administration staff but will not hit programme-makers or journalists. Sir Michael denied that the cuts would affect the BBC's daycare facilities or training.

The cuts come after a study

conducted by Margaret Salmon, director of personnel, and the accountants Price Waterhouse, which found that the BBC's central administration takes up a quarter of the £1.4 billion income from licence fees — about £330 million.

An internal market starts to work from next April and it had been feared that without large cuts in central costs, resource units such as make-up, scenery, studios and graphics would be priced out of existence, burdened with overheads that commercial rivals did not have to bear. The £150 million saved represents 20 per cent of total BBC support service costs.

Bectu, the 14,000-member broadcasting union, criticised the BBC for cutting "real jobs" and "letting the bureaucrats survive". Despite the cuts, resource units would still not be able to balance the books, Tony Lennon, president of Bectu, said.



Winning smiles: Mary Edwards, 69, from Prestatyn, North Wales, winner of the Grandparent of the Year award, with her granddaughter Michelle Williams, 24, at a ceremony at the Sheraton Park Hotel, central London, yesterday. The award was sponsored by Cadbury's and Age Concern

Armed men kidnap bank staff

By KERRY GILL

BANKS offered a £10,000 reward yesterday for information leading to the capture of armed raiders who held up and kidnapped two female staff on a single-track road.

The women had been taking cash to another bank by private car from the village of Lochgoilhead in the western Highlands, where the Bank of Scotland offers a part-time service in a hall. A van drew up in front of their car on the B839, near Hell's Glen, as another van blocked their escape.

Three men wearing balaclavas forced them to leave their car and enter the van while they stole a "substantial" amount of cash. They were then driven 50 miles over the Rest and be Thankful pass, around Loch Long and then to Loch Lomond where they were dumped.

The women were said to have suffered extreme shock. They have been offered counselling by the bank. A police spokesman said all three vehicles must have been travelling in convoy at some time after the robbery. Police have appealed for witnesses.



Checkland: resources moved to regions

Councils try to curb police pay

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

LOCAL authorities are proposing a reform of police pay and working practices that would save £100 million a year on the national police budget and end fixed annual rises.

The authorities want a cut in Home Office powers over local policing and an end to Whitehall control of force manpower levels. The proposals would mean that police authorities could set the salaries of chief constables. There could also be merit payments, and salaries could be linked to an officer's responsibilities.

The proposals are in evidence being prepared by the authorities for submission to the Sheehy enquiry, set up by Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary. They are in a paper leaked to this week's *Police Review* magazine.

Yesterday, local government sources confirmed details in the magazine that would amount to a wholesale change of the pay and conditions in operation since the 1978 Edmund-Davies report. The paper recommends a new formula that could mean negotiated annual rises rather than a fixed rise under the present system. The proposals will almost certainly provoke a sharp response from police ranks, who were given a 6.5 per cent rise this week.

The local authorities recognise that the police deserve some kind of automatic rise because they are forbidden to strike. But it is felt that their pay has risen far above levels expected by Edmund-Davies.

Scientists find clue to cancer

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS are close to identifying a gene for breast cancer that could lead to the development of improved treatments for the disease.

An international consortium of researchers has narrowed down the search for the gene to a tiny area of chromosome 17. Once identified, a blood test will be developed to tell which women are at higher risk.

Dr Michael Steel, assistant director of the Medical Research Council's human genetics unit in Edinburgh, who is leading the British research, said: "We are so close to the gene and there are so many groups working on it that I would be very surprised if it is not identified within two years."

About 250,000 women in Britain have a genetic predisposition to the disease. But the researchers believe that the gene is implicated in all breast cancer. In those who start life with a normal version of the gene, they believe it suffers damage that leads to the development of the disease.

The blood test will help women who have a mother or sister with the disease to tell whether they have inherited a mutated form of the gene, putting them at high risk.

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Lawyer says Mellor buried his political head in holiday sand

By TIM JONES

DAVID Mellor, the heritage secretary, was yesterday accused of behaving "like an ostrich" by taking a holiday in Marbella with the daughter of a prominent member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation during the Gulf crisis.

George Carman, QC, told a High court jury: "Marbella has sand, sea and sunshine and if a politician goes there and, in the honest view of some, behaves like an ostrich and puts his head in the sand and thereby exposes his thinking parts, it may be a newspaper is entitled to say so."

He said that Mr Mellor's holiday was "politically insensitive and possibly insulting to the families of British citizens."

Mrs Bauwens, 31, whose father, Jaweed al-Ghusein, is also chairman of the Palestine National Fund, which finances the PLO, claims an article published in *The People* in September 1990 made her out to be a "social leper" not fit to be seen in decent company.

The newspaper denies libel, claiming its report was justified and fair comment on the political wisdom of Mr Mellor.

Mr Carman said: "When the clouds of war gather around the country and the nation takes the strain, you expect from a minister of the Crown undivided, unambigu-

ous loyalty in conduct and never ever for a minister to put across anything associated with the friend of an enemy." The month-long holiday in a six-bedroom, six-bathroom villa, which Mr and Mrs Mellor and their children began one day before Iraq invaded Kuwait, was lavish.

"She paid for it and she paid for the tickets and the rent." The minister had accepted hospitality from a woman "whose father was on the committee of the PLO which was supporting Saddam Hussein". Mr Carman added: "At a time when British lives were in jeopardy, when Saddam had become the enemy of the realm, Mr Mellor should have seen the red light."

"He should have warned himself against the danger of being seen to be taking the hospitality of someone who might be seen as a friend of the enemy. That is the position of the most indelicate kind into which Mr Mellor put himself."

There was an American saying that there was no such thing as a free lunch. "Mr Mellor may have had that saying in mind when he took the hospitality he did. The scale of hospitality revealed by Mrs Bauwens might be seen reasonably to put Mr Mellor in a position of indebtedness." Mr Mellor had been subpoenaed to appear but Mr

Carman did not call him. He said that, if he had called Mr Mellor to give evidence, he would not have been able to cross-examine him.

As Mr Carman addressed the crowded court, Mr Mellor's wife Judith, sitting behind him in a royal blue suit, listened intently.

Mr Carman said that earlier in the week there had been the "spectacle" of Mr Mellor's "no doubt kind and friendly wife" attending the court room and going out during the lunch break in front of the television cameras with her armed linked with Mrs Bauwens — "and all beautifully reproduced on television screens for you."

"Am I being unfair or unduly cynical in saying that ministers of the Crown are not averse to public relations exercises?"

He claimed the article was within the public interest and called into question Mr Mellor's political wisdom. It had been impossible to report the holiday and hospitality taken without mentioning that Mrs Bauwens provided it.

Mr Richard Hardey, QC, for Mrs Bauwens, said: "This article is a piece of title tattle, a piece of gossip, and does not warrant being elevated into any matter of great public importance."

The hearing continues on Monday.



Ring of confidence: head girls from private schools help each other to conquer one of the more rigorous activities at their conference

Head girls rise to the challenge of derring-do

THE playing fields of England rang with shrieks, giggles and cries of "gosh!" yesterday.

More than 100 head girls and deputies from private schools ran blindfold through giant croquet hoops.

leapt across "snake infested" pits and formed makeshift skiffle bands with the help of china cups, plastic chairs and metal dustbins (Julia Llewellyn Smith writes).

Jill Clough, head of the Royal Naval School in

Haslemere, Surrey, and host and organiser of the third head girls' conference, said: "These girls have made it to the top of their school, now we want to help them get to the top of their careers."

As the girls pushed each

other through tyres suspended 10ft above the ground from trees, one girl fell hard on her head and retired in tears. "Never mind, we are fully insured," Dr Clough said.

Most of the girls wanted to

go to university to read law or medicine, although Rhian Dobell, of St Catherine's School, Bramley, Surrey, said: "Quite a lot of people from private schools are quite happy to find a rich husband."

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

IS

THE SUNDAY PAPERS

British balloon team slips back

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

FIVE British-built balloons were jostling for position south of Newfoundland yesterday on the third day of a 3,000-mile transatlantic race.

In the lead were the Dutch, Belgian and American teams. The British team of Don Cameron and Rob Bayly having slipped from second place to fourth after trying to pick up speed and gain the lead by climbing to a higher altitude. Organisers at the event's tracking station in Rotterdam said that the manoeuvre appeared to pay off but then the British pair were forced off course, leaving them ahead only of the Germans.

The balloons, kept aloft by helium during the day and by propane-provided hot air at night, have been designed and built by Cameron Balloons of Bristol, the company founded by the 53-year-old British team captain.

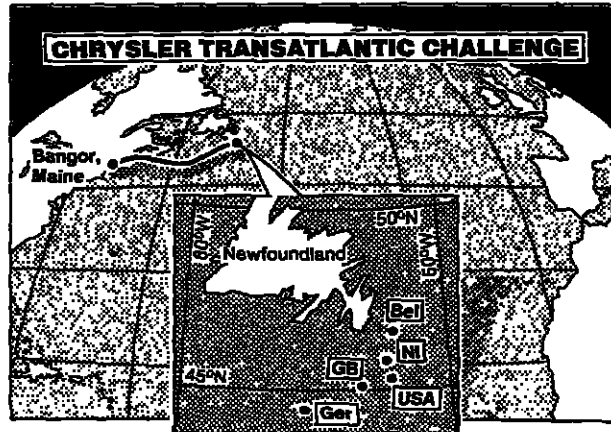
Blethyn Richards, a spokesman for the event, said that the lightweight craft had been made with modern materials, such as carbon fibre, kevlar

and rubber impregnated nylon. They are also bristling with communications technology rivaling that used in the latest jumbo jets. The teams can pinpoint their locations to within a few metres from a string of US navigation satellites.

The 90ft balloons have terminals linked to another group of satellites operated by the International Maritime Satellite organisation. These provide instant data communications with ground stations. Oxygen breathing systems allow the teams to soar up to 20,000 feet to take advantage of favourable wind streams.

"They also have weather faxes," Mr Richards said. "Not even 747 series 400 have weather faxes."

Late yesterday the balloons, which were launched from Bangor, Maine, on Wednesday, were reaching average speeds of up to 30mph. Mr Richards said the organisers thought that the race might take another six or seven days to finish.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Life jail for attack on royal friend

A car park attendant who launched a motiveless and almost fatal knife attack on a friend of the Prince of Wales was jailed for life at Harrow Crown Court yesterday.

Andrew Edwards, 25, stabbed Anna Hunter outside her house at Elstree, Hertfordshire. Edwards, of Borehamwood, denied attacking Mrs Hunter, 39, who markets the prince's lithographs, and her friend Graham Kentsley. He was convicted of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm.

Psychiatrists told the court that Edwards suffered mental damage in a motor-cycle accident seven years ago and was extremely dangerous.

Service medal

All national servicemen who served between 1939 and 1962 can wear a medal to mark their role in Britain's defences. The National Service Medal costs £23.50 through the Royal British Legion.

Baby home

Brett Greenwood, Britain's most premature baby, left hospital and went home to Hebden Bridge, West Yorkshire, yesterday. He was born 17 weeks early on May 2, weighing 1lb 5oz.

Murder charge

Jonathan Probyn, 33, of Hardwicke near Gloucester, the estranged husband of Tanya Probyn, was accused of her murder and remanded in custody by magistrates.

Jews' body freezes pensions

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A REPORT that outlines a financial crisis in orthodox Anglo-Jewry's central body gives warning that there might be insufficient funds to bury members. A freeze on pensions for the first time in ten years has been imposed after the United Synagogue borrowed from its own pension fund.

The financial difficulties of the synagogue are at the core of the problems disclosed yesterday in a 300-page report by Stanley Kalms, founder and chairman of the Dixons Group.

Sidney Frosh, president of the synagogue, who commissioned the report, will resign with the eight other honorary officers. The nine men, equivalent to a board of directors and who make policy decisions, are resigning eight months early to allow re-elections. Some may stand for re-election but Mr Frosh, who headed the committee that elected the new chief rabbi, said last night he had completed the

maximum of two three-year terms of office allowed.

Mr Frosh, who commissioned the report by Mr Kalms, said the review had failed sufficiently to take into account a recent mission statement calling for the recruitment of more people to orthodox. Mr Frosh said: "It is a very good business report but it lacks a soul. I agree with the majority of its recommendations but I am certain that when they come to be implemented they may take a rather different form."

The synagogue, which is at the heart of Anglo-Jewry, is moving towards insolvency, Mr Kalms says in his report. It outlines a scenario in which each male member could be asked to pay a levy of at least £450 to settle debts of nearly £9 million by the end of this year. In reality, it says, a much higher levy would be needed because many would be unable or unwilling to pay. Mr Kalms' report was writ-

ten to bring the difficulties into the open.

Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi and religious head of the synagogue, said the organisation must not hide from the need to change.

Mr Kalms estimates that the bank is no longer secured on its loans of £7.75 million. A cash projection shows that bank facilities are likely to be breached later this year if known commitments are honoured. The organisation has borrowed also from the Funeral Expenses Scheme, which provides free burials for the member and his dependants. The scheme showed its first deficit in 1991.

The report says the synagogue's pension fund trustees have failed to enhance and protect the value of the fund. While it was technically legal to borrow from it, Mr Kalms found no reason to justify this course. The synagogue was founded in 1870.

Cheney denies allies are near accord on Bosnia no-fly zone

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

RICHARD Cheney, the United States defence secretary, poured cold water yesterday on the suggestion that America and her allies were on the point of agreeing a "no-fly zone" over Bosnia-Herzegovina. He cautioned that despite pressure from Muslims in Bosnia on the allies to end recent attacks on towns by Serbian jets no such agreement was in sight.

"There is a lot of interest and talk about a no-fly zone, but it is a bit of a sideshow compared to the bigger problem of how to bring a political solution to the bloodshed in the former Yugoslavia," Mr Cheney said on a visit to London.

An American official with Mr Cheney said there was not even agreement within the Pentagon over having such an arrangement. "We're not sure how it would work," he said.

The impetus for enforcing a no-fly zone, which would need approval from the United Nations, has come from the French, although last week the Americans said they were

seriously studying the idea. Britain also supported the suggestion at the meeting of European Community foreign ministers at Brompton Hall, in Hertfordshire last weekend. Speaking at a lunch at the American Chamber of Commerce, Mr Cheney reiterated that the United States would assist with flying humanitarian aid to Bosnia, but would refrain from sending ground troops. "If we were to intervene and take sides, the consequences would be difficult to foresee," he said.

The latest round of peace negotiations began in Geneva yesterday. Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, the United Nations and European Community co-chairmen of the peace conference, held bilateral talks with representatives of the three Bosnian factions, who refused to sit at the same table.

Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, said he was willing to stop the fighting against the Croats, but he held out no prospect of an early peace deal with the Muslim-

dominated government. The Muslim side "has the unrealistic objective to have the whole of Bosnia-Herzegovina only for them," he told a news conference. The Bosnian government has refused all proposals that would lead to a permanent division of the republic.

Speaking before the negotiations started, Mr Vance expressed little optimism that the talks would bring an early end to the fighting. Other UN officials also gave warnings against too much optimism. "Given the fact that they won't even talk directly to each other, there doesn't seem a lot of hope. It looks like the Afghan talks all over again," a senior UN official said.

The first meeting was with Mate Bohan, leader of the Croat-controlled area of western Bosnia. Later the negotiators met Dr Karadzic, and Hris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister.

Next week at the UN General Assembly, Britain will put pressure on the Russians to use their influence on Slobodan Milosevic, the Serb leader, to curb Serbian excesses such as the policy of "ethnic cleansing".

Denmark's minority government and the social democratic opposition reached agreement yesterday on sending up to 200 troops to join the United Nations force protecting humanitarian aid convoys in Bosnia-Herzegovina, according to a parliamentary source here. Parliament was expected to vote later to authorise the deployment.

A compromise was reached in a debate during a special session of parliament, with an intervention by Poul Schluter, the prime minister. The social democrats refused to agree to sending troops to Yugoslavia "against their will". All soldiers who do go will be volunteers. Officers will be entitled to decline to go.

This will be the first time Danish peacekeepers have gone to a war zone since they were deployed in Gaza in 1956. Opponents within the military to their deployment in Bosnia argue that Danish troops are not well-prepared for such a mission. (AFP)



Warmth of charity: Lady Nott at her Chelsea home with wool donated by Coats Vytell for a project she is co-ordinating to send knitted yarn to Slovenia to be made into pullovers for Bosnian refugees. Lady Nott was born in the former Yugoslavia

Murdered Sicilian tax collector had links with Mafia

FROM PHILIP WILLAN IN ROME

TWO masked men have shot dead Ignazio Salvo, a once powerful tax collector for Sicily, who is believed to have provided an important link between the Mafia and political and economic interest groups. The shotgun killing came late on Thursday, as the government announced a harsh package of tax increases and spending cuts to try to rein in Italy's galloping public deficit.

Signor Salvo, 60, and his cousin Nino Salvo, who died of cancer six years ago, jointly controlled almost all of Sicily's tax collection agencies, which levied taxes on behalf of the regional government. The cousins, who had close links to Christian Democrat politicians in the island, including Salvo Lima, a European MP who was assassinated last March, received more in commission for their services than any other tax collectors in Italy.

Ignazio Salvo was first accused of being a "man of honour" by Tommaso Buscetta, the supergrass, who said he had been given refuge while on the run from the police in the tax collector's beachside house, where the murder took place.

The police said that Signor Salvo was shot twice in the face as he returned to his villa in the tourist resort of Santa Flavia, 15 miles from Palermo.

Signor Salvo was sentenced to three years' imprisonment after being convicted of Mafia association in 1987. The trial was prepared by Judge Giovanni Falcone, who was murdered near Palermo in May.

Investigators said that the murder of Signor Salvo could mark the opening of a new war for control of the Mafia. They said that the victim had left Sicily after the murder of Signor Lima, a close associate of Giulio Andreotti, the former prime minister, because he had no longer felt safe. They said that he had only returned to the island for a holiday.

After the prosecution of Signor Salvo, the government removed tax collection in Sicily from private hands and entrusted it to a consortium of banks.

Brussels: European Community justice and interior ministers called yesterday for tougher action against the Mafia and said that moves toward European union could help in the fight.

The ministers, welcoming the prospect of increased police, customs and judicial co-operation, agreed to set up a working group of police and judicial experts to report within six months on the organisation and structures of the Mafia and other international criminal groups. (Reuters)

UN headquarters hit in Sarajevo battle

FROM REUTER IN SARAJEVO

THE combatants in Bosnia-Herzegovina fought on yesterday, undertried by peace talks in Geneva, blasting the capital Sarajevo and towns and villages across the republic.

Serb artillery prevented a Muslim advance from Sarajevo, shells hit the airport and United Nations headquarters, and the fighting prevented a convoy of women, children, and sick and old people from leaving the city. The Bosnian Serb news agency said Serb forces had launched a counter-offensive late on Thursday in Stup, a village held by Croats west of Sarajevo.

Sarajevo police said Serb mortars had hit the old town, wounding seven people, and tanks were firing in the northern district of Vozovica and the southern areas of Hrasno and

Buca Patok, with the aim of cutting the city in two.

UN headquarters on the airport road received two direct hits and the airport, where a relief airlift has been suspended for the past two weeks, was closed even to UN traffic after more overnight firing. However, ten truckloads of aid arrived in the capital and a convoy managed to leave with food for Srebrenica, a small town east of Sarajevo.

Officials in Sarajevo said at least 34 people had been killed and 290 wounded in Bosnia in the 24 hours up to 11am.

Prague: Five Soviet-made military helicopters have been seized after a private Czechoslovak firm tried to export them to Croatia in violation of the embargo, authorities here said yesterday. (AP)

Gunmen kill Kurd leaders in Berlin

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN BERLIN

THE murderous cycle of Middle East violence spilled over on to the quiet streets of a west Berlin suburb late on Thursday night when four Kurdish leaders were shot dead.

Kurdish exile groups immediately blamed a Tehran-appointed hit squad. "We think this was done by the Iranian secret service," said Selman Arslan of the Cologne-based Kurdistan Committee.

Gunmen burst into a Greek restaurant in Wilmsdorf and opened fire with a sub-machinegun and handgun at the men sitting in the back

room at the restaurant, a popular meeting point for Kurdish exiles. Three of the men died instantly and two others were badly wounded. One later died in hospital.

Berlin police, suspecting political motives behind the killings, called in investigators from the Federal Crime Office. A team of 20 investigators were due to arrive in Berlin by helicopter yesterday.

A police spokesman said the killers appeared to be Iranian. Survivors told police the attackers had sworn at their victims in Farsi, he said.

Manors maketh a Russian

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

A RUSSIAN businessman from the Urals city of Yekaterinburg may soon find himself Lord of Tire Roll in County Sligo or the proud possessor of one of the baronies being dispensed with by the Marquis of Lothian on his land in Norfolk or Northamptonshire.

The anonymous entrepreneur has approached the British Manorial Society through Alexander Zhilin, his lawyer, saying that he has up to £40,000 to spend on a title to brush up his social standing and, in a splendidly direct Russian manner, asking what sort of grandeur can be expected for such a price.

"Our client is a wealthy man who has become wealthier in the new Russia and does a lot of business with the West. He is interested in the British nobility and feels that a title would add prestige to his international name," Mr Zhilin said. He added: "These are days when many Russians are trying to make their dreams come true, so why should a Russian not be an English lord of the manor?"

He seemed, however, nonplussed to hear that titles which can be bought and sold are vestiges of former more glorious times and have no land attached, and hurried off to tell the would-be aristocrat that his funds might well secure him kudos but not a castle and landed estate to go with it.

Yekaterinburg, until recently Sverdlovsk, is a city whose precedents for the titled are scarcely encouraging. It was here that the last tsar and his family were imprisoned and, in July 1918, murdered by the Bolsheviks.

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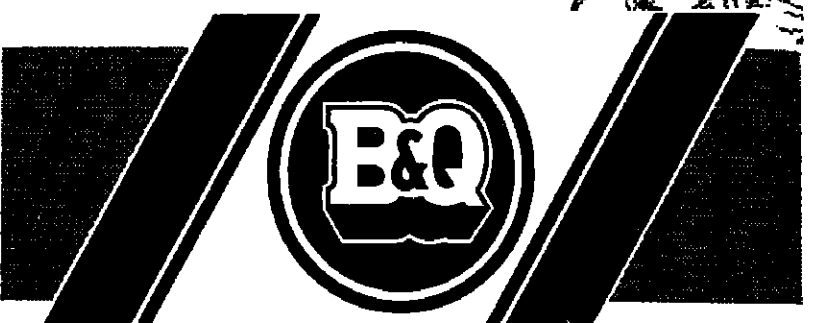
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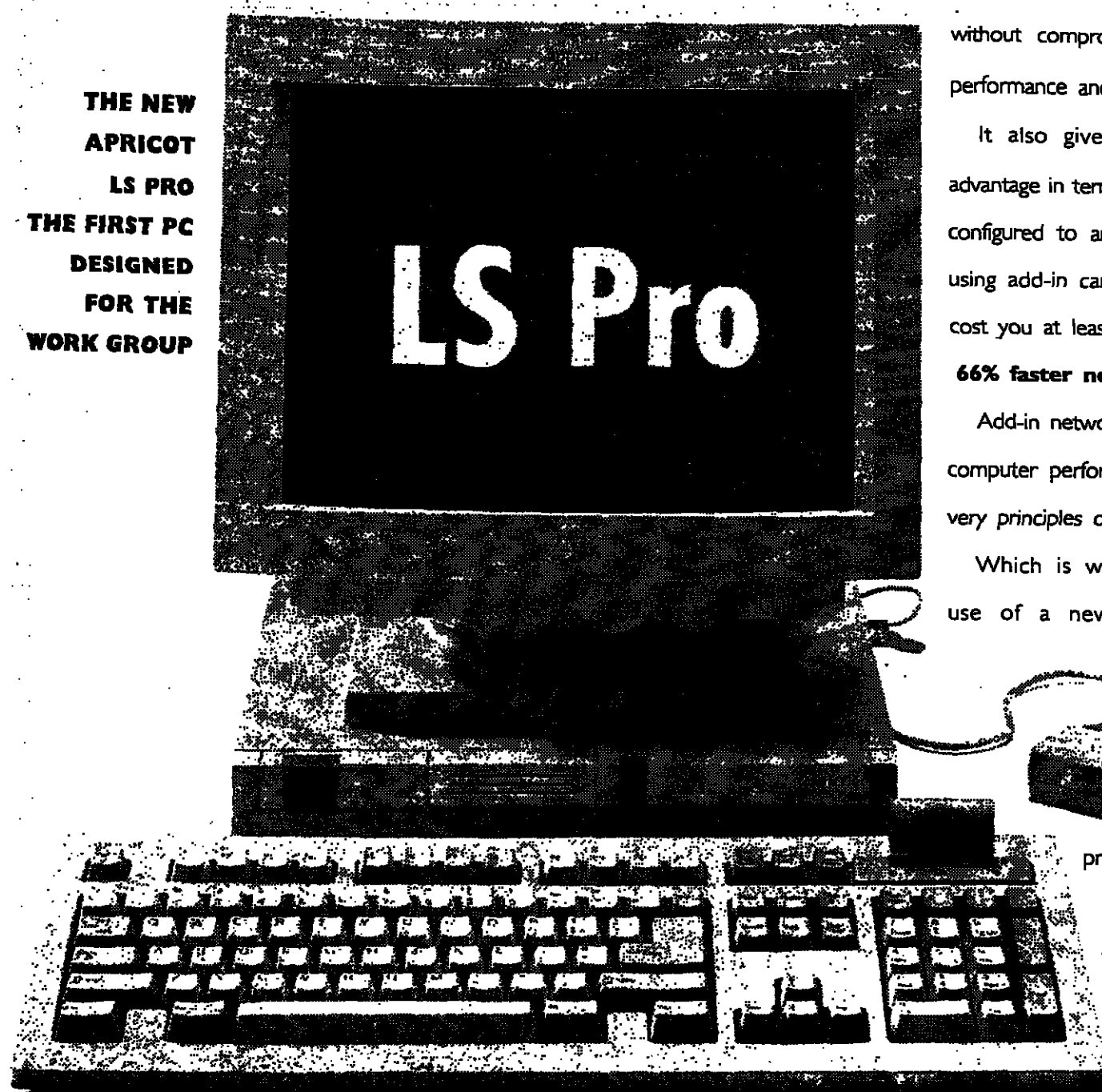
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without compromise, resulting in faster performance and greater reliability.

It also gives the LS Pro a clear advantage in terms of price: to buy a Dell configured to an equivalent specification using add-in cards, for example, would cost you at least 15% more.

66% faster network performance.

Add-in network cards frequently slow computer performance, undermining the very principles of work group operation.

Which is why the LS Pro makes use of a new Ethernet (network)

co-processor from

Intel which

sits right next

to the main

processor.

This Integrated Network Architecture (INA) allows LS Pro users to access information over the network 66%

By 1995, it is estimated, 70% of all PCs will be networked.

This revolution is well advanced today, fuelled by network-based applications like electronic mail, group scheduling and departmental project management.

These all improve the business efficiency of a group of people (the work group), by allowing them to share the information they need to make better, faster, more creative decisions.

And at the heart of these networks will be computers like the new Apricot LS Pro, the world's first Workgroup PC.

What the Workgroup needs, the Workgroup gets.

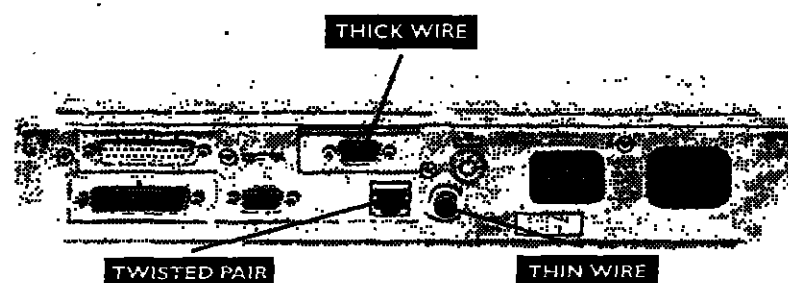
The Apricot LS Pro is a high performance computer that comes ready with all the features that are key to work group operation.

Networking, Security, Business Audio and Enhanced Video Graphics are all – astonishingly – housed inside a slimline casing just over 2" deep.

This integrated approach enables us to design our systems

faster than equivalent PCs equipped with add-in cards – a significant improvement in productivity.

And because networking is integrated, every new LS Pro computer comes fully network-ready, with connections for all three Ethernet standards: thin wire, thick wire and twisted pair. There is even an option for Token Ring.



You can't take security for granted.

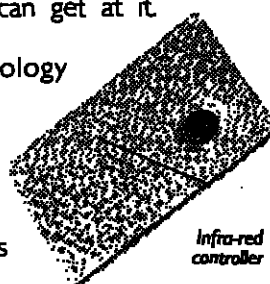
Nor do we.

Once you start sharing information in a group, you need to make certain that only the right people can get at it.

Which is why Apricot's LOC Technology Security System is also standard, working on two levels.

The first barrier controls physical access to the computer through the use of a credit-card sized infra-red controller. Without it, the machine simply can't be activated.

The second barrier is based on an advanced password



management system with a range of clever protocols.

It's the only such system to be certified to UK Level 1 by the Government's Security Evaluation and Certification Group and, importantly, it also prevents contamination by all known viruses.

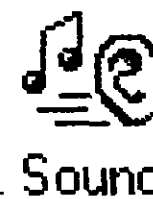
What is Business Audio?

Business Audio enables the LS Pro to record and playback sound under Windows 3.1, digitally and in stereo.

It has input/output jacks on the side of the casing and a microphone which attaches to the top right corner of the keyboard, for direct voice-input.

And while it may seem like the first signs of madness to start talking to your computer, in reality it opens up a wide range of practical benefits.

You can, for example, annotate documents by voice. You can listen to "Help" files instead of having to read them. You can even send electronic mail by voice instead of written text.



For work groups, it even opens up the prospect of LAN conferencing, where you can talk to someone else on the network in real time, while sharing the same information on-screen.

Compact size, generous spec.

The new LS Pro ranges from a 386SX running at 33Mhz with 2Mb RAM to a 486SLC running at 33Mhz with 4Mb RAM.

Additionally, all models can be expanded up to 16Mb of SIMM memory.

IDE hard drives range from the standard 80Mb right up to an 8 ms access time 515Mb, with diskless versions also available.

And all models have an integrated high performance EVGA graphics controller supporting up to 1024 x 768 x 256 colours.

Who needs the LS Pro?

If you're networked (or about to be) there's simply no better computer you can buy than the LS Pro.

But even if you're just looking for a new PC, nothing can match its specification and its compact size at the price. And if you're looking ahead, it's worth bearing in mind that a new piece of software from Microsoft – Windows for Workgroups – will allow as few as two LS Pro computers to be networked together, simply by connecting a cable between them.

So send for more details about Apricot and the new LS Pro. It's not just a new computer, it's a new way of working together.



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MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC

ANC cadres bury Bisho martyrs in the land of Steve Biko

YESTERDAY they buried a man who was standing four yards from the 12 days ago. He stood one minute at the barbed wire across the road leading to Bisho. The next minute he was dead, his head and neck shattered by a bullet, with a man, not his friend or anyone he knew, but a man who was beside him, holding his hand and calling: "Don't stop now. Keep marching, keep on to Bisho."

Twenty-six others, all of whom died in a five-minute fusillade, were buried with him. A row of graves was dug into the gritty earth on a hillside across the railway tracks from the neat white town they call "King". It is one of the few former colonial outposts which keeps a statue of Queen Victoria in the main square, but the black "location" where the dead were buried savours a different history. The road near the graveyard is called Biko Road. Steve Bantu Biko, the leader of the Black Consciousness movement, who was beaten to death in a police cell, is buried a quarter of a mile away. His mother lives in Ginsburg township above the graveyard. His widow, a nursing sister, received the injured from the massacre at King William's Town hospital.

There is a burnt-out building overlooking the burial ground. Graffiti says: "Fighters arise and seize the time for a socialist Azania." At the Victoria ground, the sports stadium, where, despite the throng, the cricket square was miraculously preserved

Clerics rubbed shoulders with Marxists crying 'Viva Jesus' at the funeral in King William's Town of 27 victims of the Ciskei killings, Michael Hamlyn writes

for the season which starts in a fortnight. 40,000 mourners gathered in temperatures of 95°F. Speaker after speaker urged them to "pick up the spear", to avenge the deaths. But the African National Congress officially seemed to be doing its best to play down the drama. It did not send Nelson Mandela, the president, nor Cyril Ramaphosa, the secretary-general, to address the crowd. Walter Sisulu, the deputy president, was the senior figure.

Chris Hani, general secre-

tary of the Communist party, was on hand. So was Ronnie Kasrils, chief of intelligence for Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC's armed wing. They led the rush on the Ciskei defence force, sparking the massacre, when 70,000 demonstrators marched to show their opposition to Brigadier Joshua "Oupa" Gqozo, the puppet leader of the nominally independent black homeland.

The main event yesterday was in the hands of the church, however, and even Marxists such as Mr Kasrils



were seen to cry "Viva Jesus" at appropriate moments. Ninety-three clerics attended, from the purple-clad Roman Catholic bishop, who delivered a message of condolence from the Pope, to the charismatic Ray McCauley, with long hair and a tie loud enough to match his bellow. There were also present

more peace observers than you could shake a knobkerrie at. The team of 50 peace monitors proposed by the United Nations is gradually arriving in South Africa, and this was their first public outing. They were accompanied by South African members of the peace secretariat.

The coffins, draped in ANC flags and with garlands of yellow flowers, stood in the baking heat surrounded by wailing mourners, grieving families, and a brass band from St John's Apostolic Church in the nearby township of Mdantsane.

The main speech came from Emilio Castro, from the World Council of Churches, who announced that he would send relays of clergy to South Africa to act as additional

peace monitors from the beginning of next month.

But the main cheer of the day was reserved for Major General Bantu Holomisa, the military dictator of the neighbouring black homeland of Transkei. Unlike Brig Gqozo, Maj Gen Holomisa has buried his links with the ANC. He is their favourite uniformed autocrat, and the crowd was happy to reinforce that yesterday, greeting him like a filmstar.

After calling for a regional indaba, or grand council, to discuss the way forward for the homelands, he had some hard words for Roelf Meyer, the Pretoria minister for constitutional development. Mr Meyer had called for the government to take control of the homelands' armed forces.

Maj Gen Holomisa would have none of it. "I have got this message," he said among wild cheers. "The present administration of Transkei will not be tampered with until an interim government is in place."

In Bisho, Brig Gqozo was no less defiant. "If they [Pretoria] think they can just thrust things down our throats we will resist until the last of us here is dead," he said. ● Johannesburg: President de Klerk told the congress of the National party of the Transvaal that the ANC's campaign of disruptive mass action was eating away like a cancer at the welfare of all South Africans. For the first time, he also accused the mainly Zulu Inkatha Freedom Party of being involved in fomenting violence.

China accuses Hong Kong of trickery over airport finance

BRITAIN and China are heading into a fresh round of dispute over the new Hong Kong airport after Peking signalled its dislike of new costing proposals put forward by the colonial government. These were based partly on Chinese suggestions.

Accusing the government of trickery and attempting to steal money which should belong to the people of Hong Kong after 1997, pro-Peking newspapers denied stock market hopes that China would accept the latest plan.

The Hong Kong government proposed injecting a further HK\$40 billion (£2.9 billion) into the airport and railway link as a means of meeting Chinese concerns that the project will leave the government of the new special autonomous region short of funds after the Chinese takeover. The money for the new proposal would be raised by selling land to the private sector. The Chinese government wants more cash from current government revenues put into the airport project.

"This so-called counter-proposal is disappointing and purely a numerical trick," said the daily Wen Wei Po. China has yet to respond officially but another Peking mouthpiece, Tu Kung Pao, in effect rejected the proposal. "In any respect it could hardly be accepted and agreed to by the Chinese side

Attacks on the colony's airport proposals have given rise to suggestions that China wants to take the credit for the finished project, writes David Watts, diplomatic correspondent



Li signed agreement on airport last year

and the people of Hong Kong."

"It's really difficult to see what they want," said a Hong Kong source in London. "They keep on muddying the waters by raising other political issues. It seems as though they are using the airport as a lever for other matters."

Others believe that Peking is intent on spinning out the project so that it is completed after the takeover so that China can take the credit for it. Others in Hong Kong believe that is what should be done anyway to reduce the cost of a project which critics call a Ford for the price of a Rolls-Royce.

The project, which includes two cross-harbour tunnels, two suspension bridges and land reclamation as well as the airport, has been a constant

source of friction between Britain and China since it was announced in 1989. John Major and Li Peng, his Chinese counterpart, signed an agreement calling for the airport to open by the time of the handover on June 30, 1997. It is now a year since the agreement and the stalemate over financing has yet to be broken. The new dispute is now raising questions as to whether it will be possible to finish the project on time.

John Mulcahy, regional research director at Peregrine Brokerage, said in an interview with Reuters, that the extra equity would come from selling land along the railway route. "I think it's an interesting proposition and it certainly leaves ground for negotiation and compromise

but I would be very surprised if China accepted this proposal en bloc. The whole point is they want to see some commitment from the current administration and something coming out of current revenues to finance the airport."

Mr Mulcahy added: "What China is hoping for... is that there isn't going to be any big fireworks ceremony, that Britain isn't going to be piped out of Hong Kong having handed over the keys to the airport... I think China would like it to be paid for by and large by June 30, 1997 but not completed, so that the ribbon cutting could be done by China rather than Britain."

Koichiro Matsuura, the Japanese deputy foreign minister, yesterday offered Tokyo's help to break the impasse over the airport. "Japan is willing to assist in whatever way possible to allay any feelings of unrest and bolster the faith of the people of Hong Kong in their future," Mr Matsuura, a former consul-general to the British colony, told the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. "If necessary, we are even willing to approach both the British and Chinese governments to ensure that Hong Kong's prosperity continues," he added. Japanese construction firms are bidding for airport-related contracts.

Diary, page 14

Exasperated Perot threatens US election comeback

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

ARIZONA yesterday became the fifth and final state to place Ross Perot on the ballot for November's presidential election, and the enigmatic Texas billionaire threatened to re-enter the race to force President Bush and Bill Clinton to address America's huge economic problems.

Since his abrupt withdrawal nine weeks ago, Mr Perot has spent \$3 million (£1.7 million) getting his name on every ballot and keeping offices open in every state. He has published a best-selling book detailing an austere economic manifesto.

Polls still give him double-digit support even without campaigning. His re-entry would inject fresh confusion into this most turbulent of elections.

Mr Perot would stand no chance of winning, but experts said that his candidature could boost the president's chances by splitting the anti-Bush vote, particularly in California. However, conceivably it could also hand Texas to the Democrat.

Over the past week, Mr Perot has emitted a series of conflicting signals about his intentions. On Thursday, he said that his re-entry was as likely as his "jumping over a tall building in a single bound". But yesterday he said that he had been told he could broadcast advertisements on America's economic problems only if he were a candidate. He continued: "I may be the first guy in history that had to declare he was a candidate so he could buy television time."

He also repeated that his overriding aim was to force Mr Bush and Mr Clinton to address America's huge national debt. If they did not, "there will be an organised process where the 50 state co-ordinators come together, decide what we need to do". Whatever their recommendation was, "we will do it".

Mr Perot's core supporters have formed a nationwide organisation called "United We Stand America" and they are now pressing him to re-enter the election contest, recalling his original promise six months ago to stand for president if the people put him on all 50 state ballots.

Last May, Mr Perot, capitalising on acute public disenchantment with politicians, actually led in the polls, but the Republicans eroded his support by painting him as a temperamental prankster who employed private detectives to snoop on adversaries.

He never formally declared, but nevertheless he pulled out of the race during July's Democratic convention, saying that he did not want to be just a "spoiler". He was reported to have known that two new

stories were about to break, one alleging that he had his daughter's Jewish boyfriend investigated, another that he had summarily dismissed an employee who had the Aids virus.

Mr Perot's present motives are a mystery. He has lost all his top campaign officials and his credibility was so damaged by July's withdrawal that he could not possibly now win the White House.

He may wish genuinely to influence the political and economic debate, but he is also said to have been stung by charges that he was a "quitter" and to be driven by a personal detestation of Mr Bush.

"He is obviously keeping his options open to see the lay of the land in October," said Richard Murray, a University of Houston political scientist. "What he cannot figure out, and he will never admit it in a million years, is how he can most hurt Bush."

Clinton leads: Polls indicate that Mr Clinton has a 25-point lead over President Bush among voters in California and a nine-point advantage nationally. (AP)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Congress fraud admitted

Washington: The former chief of staff of the House of Representatives post office has pleaded guilty to embezzlement and misuse of government funds in a criminal investigation that could involve members of Congress. Joanna O'Rourke, 52, admitted she used a government express mail account to send personal items for herself and for the office of an unnamed congressman. On the count of misuse of government funds, she is charged with receiving a personal loan of \$1,500 (£860) from post office funds. She was freed without bail until sentencing on December 9. (AFP)

Israeli arrest

Jerusalem: Israeli security forces, after a 16-year hunt, have arrested Ahmad Sleiman Katameh, 40. They say that he is the leader in the occupied territories of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. (AFP)

Flights halted

Washington: Relief flights to the Somali city of Belet Huen have been suspended after an American cargo plane was fired at in flight after unloading supplies, the Pentagon said. Nobody was injured. (Reuters)

Land demand

Miami: Guerrilla leaders in El Salvador are demanding large areas of land as a condition of disarming, threatening a seven-month old peace plan arranged by the United Nations.

Roh pulls out

Seoul: President Roh Tae Woo of South Korea said he would resign from the ruling Democratic Liberal party, edging to an opposition demand that he remain neutral during this year's elections for his successor. (Reuters)

Sex hearing

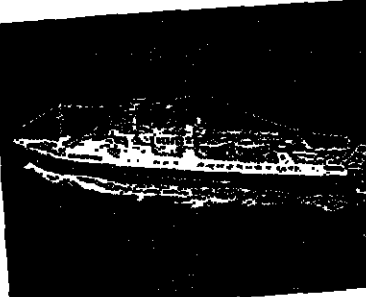
Boston: A psychiatrist accused of having sex with a patient who later committed suicide has given up her medical licence. But a medical board said her disciplinary case would go ahead next week. She denies the allegation. (AP)

SOUTH CHINA SEA

A 14 DAY EXPLORATION CRUISE OVER THE EASTERN HOLIDAY VISITING SINGAPORE, KUCHING, SIBU, BRUNEL, KOTA KINABALU, SAIGON, BANGKOK 31 MARCH - 18 APRIL 1993

Following the great success of last winter's cruises in the South China Sea, the MS Caledonian Star is returning to the Far East to begin a series of journeys which will commence in Singapore with our special Easter cruise.

The MS Caledonian Star is a vessel well suited to the tropics and in addition to being one of the finest exploration cruise ships in the world, she also offers the highest standards of accommodation, food and service. She is also specially designed for unpredictable seas. The MS Caledonian Star has a 21 foot draft and an excellent hull design with stabilisers thereby providing a safe and steady ride.

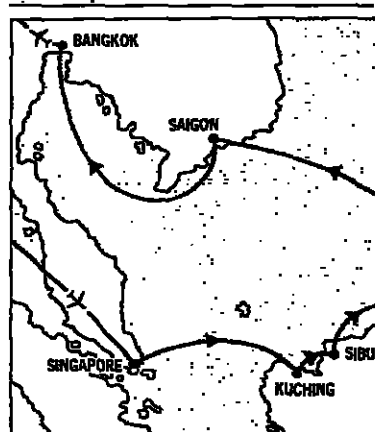


There is accommodation for up to 110 passengers. All cabins are 'outside' with private shower and we have refrigerator. It has a single sitting restaurant, two lounges, bar and library. Other facilities include a shop, beauty parlour, clinic, sun deck, swimming pool and plentiful deck areas for reading or observation. The excellent facilities are enhanced by the Scandinavian officers and management which together with a caring Filipino crew make the MS Caledonian Star one of the happiest and best run ships afloat.

This is a delightful journey for those who enjoy shipboard life, the atmosphere is informal and relaxing. There will be no black-tie events or the usual cruise jollifications. Rather a voyage with like-minded travellers who enjoy travelling by sea in the special atmosphere that only a small ship can engender.

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 Fly London (Heathrow) with British Airways to Singapore.
DAY 2 Singapore. Arrive and drive to the Hilton Hotel for a 2 night stay.
DAY 3 Singapore. Relax, shop or join one of the many optional tours arranged by our representative.



DAY 4 Embark on MS Caledonian Star. Morning free in Singapore, embark in mid-afternoon and sail at 17.00 hours.
DAY 5 At sea

DAY 6 Kuching. Exploration ashore will include the Margherita Fort, the Raja's Istana Palace and the Museum. There will be time to absorb the unique influences of the colonial past and indigenous culture, perhaps taking a Sampan across the Sarawak River to view the riverside stilted houses.

DAY 7 Sibu. From our mooring in Sibu on the Rajang River we will embark on a fast, specially adapted river boat for journey upstream through the jungle to the territory of the Ibans. After lunch sail from Sibu past the rural Chinese settlements and out to sea.

DAY 8 Brunei. Bandar Seri Begawan. See the golden domes of the Omar Ali Mosque and splendid palace of the Sultan. Here half the population live in traditionally built stilt houses connected by walkways and bridges. The naturalists can undertake a visit to the coastal wetlands with our expedition leader.

DAY 9 Kota Kinabalu. Join a two day excursion to the Mount Kinabalu National Park, driving along scenic forest roads, we climb to 5000 feet to the park headquarters. Here there are walks

and nature trails through spectacular mountain scenery which ranges from lowland jungle, drier forests, cloud forests, mountain forests and culminating in the bare craggy majestic peak of Mount Kinabalu, which at 13,000 feet is the highest mountain in South East Asia. Those who remain on board may explore the coastline and city, including the rubber and palm plantations, rice paddies and the kampong-Air floating villages.

DAY 10 Kota Kinabalu. Sail in the evening.
DAYS 11 and 12 At sea

DAY 13 Saigon. Enter the Mekong at 07.00 hours and sail up the river to Saigon, arriving in the late morning. Dividing into small groups we will visit the Presidential Palace, the Cholon district, markets and a Buddhist centre. Moor overnight in Saigon.

DAY 14 Saigon. Morning visit to the tunnels of Cu Chi which were used by the Vietnamese during the Vietnam conflict and once spread over an area of 200 miles.

DAYS 15 and 16 At sea
DAY 17 Bangkok. Arrive in the morning, disembark and drive to the Hilton for a night's stay (a further 3 night extension at the Hilton is available for £95 per person in a twin room, £160 in a single). Our representative can arrange excursions in and around Bangkok.

DAY 18 Bangkok-London. Day free in Bangkok until evening departure by British Airways to London.
DAY 19 Return to London (Heathrow)

PRICES PER PERSON

Prices range from £2150 for a 2 berth cabin to £3400 for a 2 room suite. Singles from £2450.

Price includes: Economy air travel, 13 nights on MS Caledonian Star on full board including shore excursions, 2 nights in Singapore and 1 night in Bangkok on room only basis, services of expedition staff and guest speakers, transfers, airport taxes.

Not included: Travel insurance \$4785, Vietnam visa \$20, tips to ship's staff.

HOW TO BOOK

For reservations and further information, please telephone 071-491 4752, 24 hour Brochure Answerphone 071-355 1424.

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Ordeal relived: Maria Rosa Henson, 65, with her daughter Rosario, weeping yesterday as she recounted in Manila her ordeal as a Filipina at the hands of the Japanese army during the second world war (Abby Tan writes). She said she and five other women were forcibly "kept very busy servicing the sexual needs of up to 20 soldiers a day".

Pakistan army halts threat of flooding

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN GUDDU

THE Indus river pounded into Pakistan's Sind province yesterday at ten times its normal volume, testing to the limits two vital barriers that control the irrigation of millions of acres of farmland.

The spate, rolling in from the monsoon-soaked north, reached the first barrier at Guddu soon after noon. The onslaught is expected to last until tomorrow when the river will subside. "Sind is safe," an army engineer said.

The army has deployed patrols to ensure embankments beside the Indus do not collapse, and will bolster weak spots with sandbags. The military has turned out to be the hero of the piece, showing again how much Pakistan depends on the armed forces in times of crisis. The corps of engineers mobilised all its resources to save the irrigation barriers while civilian agencies dithered and squabbled.

"A DAY off? But what am I supposed to do?" wailed Sumiko, 13, who had risen as usual at 6.30 in preparation for another Saturday at her school desk.

Eighteen million schoolchildren were puzzling nervously over this same question on Saturday, the first time in 120 years that Japan's schools have given their charges the day off. For all the thousands of hours they devote to trigonometry and memorising Central American rainfall statistics, Japan's children have not learnt how to cope with an unexpected holiday.

In an effort to reduce the pressure on overworked students and give them a chance to move on from rote

learning to creative thinking, schools will offer one Saturday off a month as the first step towards implementing a regular five-day week sometime towards the millennium.

Many parents have welcomed the easing of working hours, but others are not altogether approving. Japan's *kyoku mammas* — the ambitious "education mammas" who chart their own success by the ability of their children to pass fiendish examinations for entry into prestige schools — regard anything less than a six-day, 35-hour week with extra daily cramming classes as slack.

According to a poll in the Yomiuri newspaper, most

high-school students (or perhaps their mothers) were eager for their new spare time to be spent on extra study. Others wondered if they would be penalised for not attending the "organised fun" events at school, and whether to wear uniform. At one school in Mie prefecture, "organised fun" turned out to be four back-breaking hours of weeding gardens; at another, it was a series of lectures on the national tax system and robot technology.

The education ministry gesture is not as magnanimous as it seems. The curriculum has not been adjusted: classes will have to be extended on weekdays to make up for lost time.



Picture supplied by Rex Features Ltd.

Take a good look. Don't ever say "I didn't know it was happening."

Suppose you're at a dinner party and the person next to you says they're a member of Amnesty.

You ask her, or him: 'Why should anyone join Amnesty?'

What sort of answer do you expect? Surely, a polite one. One that might contain words like 'human rights', 'freedom', 'dignity'.

But it's an inadequate answer. No-one joins Amnesty because they're enamoured of fine-sounding words.

A clearer reply might be if the person turned and, without warning, punched you violently in the face.

Imagine your pain, fear and confusion multiplied a hundredfold, and you'll begin to realise what thousands of people are suffering, every hour of every day.

The reason you join Amnesty is not words, but pain.

It's the pain of children like 16 year old Sevil Akinci, literally barbecued alive by Turkish soldiers who came to his village looking for guns which they didn't find.

It's the tears of 17 year old Ravi Sundaralingam, tortured by Indian troops in Sri Lanka - tied upside down with a fire lit beneath his head and

electrodes sparking at his genitals.

It's the anguish of Angelica Mandoza de Ascarza, whose teenaged son was taken from home by the security forces in Peru, never to be heard from again. He joined the hundreds who have simply "disappeared."

It's the terror of a 23 year old Tibetan nun, raped by Chinese soldiers with an electric cattle prod.

It's the agony of children like Walter Villatoro and Salvadore Sandoval, street children in Guatemala City, whose eyes were burned out by police cigars, their tongues ripped from their heads with pliers.

Maybe you simply don't realise that such vile things go on.

But for two years now, we have been running appeals in this newspaper. With one exception, all of these cases were mentioned in previous appeals.

Didn't you see them? Didn't you care? Or did you think that joining us would make no difference?

Take a good look at the picture above, of Bosnian muslims in a Serbian-run prison camp.

It is horribly reminiscent of pictures

taken fifty years ago, but was shot within the last few weeks.

Why - the Bosnian Ambassador to the United Nations demanded a month ago - was the UN silent about the atrocities alleged to be taking place in these camps?

The UN replied that it couldn't comment until the facts about the "death camps" had been confirmed.

Yet certain facts were already known.

In March 1992, Amnesty published a report containing six densely-packed pages about the horrors of other camps run by the JNA and Serbian paramilitaries in Croatia.

The following eye-witness accounts were published six months ago.

"The hallmark of life in the camp was the regular, daily and systematic ill-treatment of prisoners. The soldiers would come in drunk at night and force the prisoners to stand to attention and sing all night or they would order them to lie down and cover their heads and proceed to call out their names and beat them."

seriously ill and that she would bring some medicine the following day. The next day Ivan Kunac was dead."

(Excerpts from Amnesty March 22nd 1992 report on the former Yugoslavia).

We named the camps, gave their locations and precise descriptions.

But the silence of the world's political leaders is not very surprising. According to Amnesty's 1992 Annual Report, human rights were violated in 142 countries.

The sickened journalist writing in the Daily Mail got it right when he said that so long as reports about death camps lie on desks in Ministries, nothing gets done.

But when the TV cameras arrive, and the public see the revolting pictures, then suddenly the airwaves are full of politicians clamouring for action.

Governments aren't ignore you. Your anger forces them into action.

We saw it last year with the Kurdish refugees in the mountains - remember the outrage when George Bush went fishing? - and we're seeing it again with Bosnia and Somalia.

If the news stories upset you, don't just weep. For God's sake get angry.

If enough of us around the world make our outrage heard and felt, governments will have to listen.

Let's make our message clear: we don't give a damn what your politics are. We just want governments to stop killing and torturing people.

Here in Britain, we have about 100,000 members. Think what a million of us could do!

A million. Is that so far-fetched?

You're reading this in the Guardian, the Times, the Independent or the Observer. As such, you're one of about 3 million people who have regularly seen our appeals.

We've told you about children killed by chemical bombs; the woman whose husband was crucified and whose 12 year old sister was raped to death; street children gunned down by death squads; students crushed under tanks; people whose loved ones have disappeared forever.

3 million of you reading this, yet to date we've managed to attract just 30,000 new members.

We can't believe that only 1 in 100 of you care. It must mean we're not telling our story well enough.

The fine words we honour don't serve us. In fact they subvert our message. They make it philosophical when it's about real pain.

Words fail us. As T.S. Eliot said, they slip and slide beneath the strain.

Well meaning advertisements like this one can never begin to succeed.

Please don't let our lack of writing skill prevent you from doing one of the best things you'll ever do.

Amnesty membership costs only £15. Please will you be one of our million?

"We slept on the bare stone floor, in four rows, lying on a little straw, with only one blanket to cover ourselves. The temperature near the door was close to zero. In three months prisoners were allowed to bathe only once and people slept for a month or two without taking off their boots."

"Some prisoners were tied naked to posts and then beaten so brutally they had post-traumatic delirium afterwards..."

"Ivan Kunac was the victim of a particularly savage beating. On the second day, he was found drenched and covered in vomit... The official (military) doctor said that he was not

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AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Clifford Longley

Who's to blame for the free-thinking thug?

The young working class male who feels no need to become "a responsible adult" in a functioning community has emerged as the very emblem of the post-Christian world. He has rid himself of all obligations to others and become the ultimate free individual. So argues a new analysis of the state of Britain published this week, which turns upon the question whether the young man is to be applauded, excused or blamed.

It is not simply what he does to the passing girlfriend he impregnates, the tower block he vandalises or the car he steals that gives the measure of his symbolic significance. The appearance of this creature as a sociological archetype has also vandalised the traditional divide in politics between left and right. His rise is as deplorable to many on the one wing as on the other, and for similar reasons. But others on the left or right are not bothered. And in the difference between these two judgments for the one judgment and other refusal to judge lies a new political and moral argument.

Appropriately, this new approach to politics is sponsored by the Institute of Economic Affairs, usually associated with the free-market right wing in British politics. It is written, however, by two academics who call themselves ethical socialists, Norman Dennis and George Erdos, and introduced by Professor A.H. Halsey, the very doyen of ethical socialism.

To find these three comfortably together in an IEA bed along with David Green, director of the IEA's health and welfare unit, is a pleasing novelty. But perhaps not for long. The argument of *Families Without Fatherhood* (IEA £7.95) is that ethics now transcends ideology. It is not left wing or right wing to regard the young man in question as feckless and irresponsible. What is to be deplored, say the authors, is any effort, on the one hand, to make excuses for his behaviour by blaming his deprived environment; or on the other, to concede his freedom to behave that way in the name of "liberalism".

Instead of two categories of political attitude there now have to be four (at least until a realignment is complete, when only the two new ones would remain). The divide on the left, the authors of the IEA study argue, is between the "ethical socialists" and "egoistical socialists". The former believe fervently in moral responsibility. They uphold the ethos of the "respectable working class" of old, based on solid family life, devotion of parents to their children, hard work, honesty, and consideration for neighbours.

They are opposed by the egoistical socialists, who believe that "individuals may live whatever lifestyles they choose and if things go wrong the state should pick up the pieces".

In this way the Labour party has ceased to reflect working class respectability, and been captured by middle class intellectuals who believe in an "absolute laissez-faire" in personal life-style. Confronted by the feckless young man they blame society for creating an underclass, not the man himself for rejecting all moral constraints. For they have already rejected such constraints in their own lives, under the banner "Thou shalt not commit a value judgement".

It is Green himself who turns the Dennis-Erdos critique onto the right and finds there its matching pattern. The egoistical capitalists, whom he identifies as "liberalists", believe people should do as they wish. Some liberalists — perhaps they ought to be called right-wing anarchists — believe that without outside interference human existence would settle down to a natural harmony. Other liberalists find the concept of "guilt" as objectionable as all forms of state coercion. Though they may inhabit the Conservative party, they are clearly at one with the intellectuals who are accused of betraying the "respectable" values of the old Labour party.

The ethical capitalists, like the ethical socialists, regard the heart of a free society, in line with Friedrich Hayek or Michael Novak, as "personal responsibility guided by conscience". They stress an "energetic vital private moral order built on strong families and vigorous voluntary associations." This sounds very like the cohesive, chapel-going mill towns and mining villages of Labour's history. Thus a new conservative moral-political position has been defined which straddles left and right, against an equal and opposite liberalist consensus which also crosses the old faultlines of politics. And at its heart is not an economic disagreement at all but a moral and spiritual one.

With no one in charge, the Green party's interecine fulminations came as no surprise to Bernard Levin

You need a heavy at the top

Have you ever noticed that in the field of non-governmental organisations, when things go wrong the recriminations are always in inverse ratio to the professed peaceability of the body in question? Thus, if there was a break-up of a club for sumo wrestlers they would shake hands genuinely as they went their different ways, while if the outfit was, say, the Society for the Protection of Woolly Caterpillars, the dissolution of the group would be marked by the foulest abuse, accusations of the most flagitious nature and probably a few stabbings.

Which, roughly, is the story of the Green party and its lamentable fate. Far be it from me to apportion blame among the rival groups (157 when last counted), much less offer to mediate. I would rather stand between the Devil and his Dam. But as an outsider who has spent many years studying the human race, I think I can promise to make things worse for all the warring factions.

It isn't going to be difficult. Here, for instance, is a billet-doux from Mrs Sara Parkin, the deposed Head Green: "...the Green party, as it is now, only provides its detractors with regular proof of its unfitness to contribute to the rapidly evolving green debate". She

follows that by saying that her reforms were frustrated by "a small but determined minority". But hitherto she is only rolling up her sleeves; now she drops the playful bantering and speaks from the heart, saying "The limited time of elected people is deliberately forced away from their proper work to respond to negative internal manoeuvrings", and "An atmosphere of chronic mistrust is actively encouraged through a constant diet of rumour and uncorroborated accusations".

Attagirl! But she isn't getting things all her own way: from the opposition, Mr. Mallen-Baker says of the goddess with feet of clay that "Just because... she looks good on television does not mean she can be allowed to run the party badly", and that what she is doing now is typical of her "destructive behaviour".

Back comes a member in the Parkin camp to denounce Mr Baker as "irresponsible and not politically competent to speak for the party". There are no signs of wits yet; possibly the Green party (or, as we must now say, Green parties, with reductions for more than a dozen) will not serve writs except on re-cycled

paper. And another thing: it is a long-standing tradition in the break-up of organisations devoted to brotherly and sisterly love, for one of the members, when the uproar is at its height, to make off with the funds, assuming they have any. I counsel the Green party's treasurer (if, that is, they were willing to have such a worldly figure at all) to go through the books at once, and not be surprised if there is a substantial shortfall in the hard-earned pennies of the faithful.

But I didn't come here today to jeer. I want to give advice. The Green party prided itself on not having a Leader, a President, a Chief Executive; they wanted to live like the gardeners in Richard the Second:

Cut off the heads of too fast growing sprays,
That look too lofty in our commonwealth:
All must be even in our government...

And I tell them that it cannot be done. If people are to come together for a common purpose, someone — someone — must be in charge. It is all very well to say that Mrs Parkin was the "chair", but that meant little more than

spokeswoman. There has to be someone who can give orders, not sweet-scented requests, with the authority to ensure that the orders will be obeyed. The first time a member of such an organisation says that he will not obey because it would be contrary to his understanding of the cause, he must be sacked instantly, brutally and with no hope of return.

Students of the 1917 Russian Revolution will know that the sailors of the Imperial Navy joined in the struggle against the Tsar, and gave massive support to Lenin and the Bolsheviks. But after a time, they began to explore different avenues, and to create other forms of equality and freedom. Lenin did not hesitate: he sent Trotsky to Kronstadt, where the rumblings of revolt could be clearly heard, and Trotsky massacred the lot of them.

That is not a recourse that Mrs Parkin had at her disposal, though from time to time she must have dwelt on such striking ways out of her torment. In any army, there must be a hierarchy, a chain of command, be the

army no more threatening than the Society for the Protection of Woolly Caterpillars. In the early days of the German Green Movement, the head of it was a real General, who had commanded real armies in real war. Alas for the German Green Movement, the General in civilian clothes had lost the power to order the members, on pain of execution, to behave themselves.

The result, of course, was that they did not behave themselves, and the Movement crumbled. The world is imperfect: even the greatest optimist would agree. Unfortunately, the optimists insist that it can be made perfect; it is but a step further to saying "And I am going to make it perfect". Every Grouper I know of, from the Woolly Caterpillars to the 1384 organisations claiming to be the sole inheritors of the pure doctrine of Karl Marx, the result is the same: fissiparousness. Only the humble amoeba can rival groups of human beings at breaking into two or more pieces when united in a cause and differing in the methods of achieving it.

In a way, it is heartening, at least for those who are only there to see the fun. There is a colossal

conceit in saying "I am going to make the world perfect", but only the most story-hearted bystander would point out that millions have tried it before, and failed. We do not need to add, though the sterner ones among us probably will, that the great perfectionist ideologies have among them murdered more human beings than there are grains of sand on the seashore, without even achieving perfection for one division of one amoeba.

We are not all equal. Einstein was cleverer than I am; he, for instance, could play the violin, whereas I cannot. Nor, indeed, is it likely that I could run a hundred yards faster than Mr Linford Christie does. I mourn these inadequacies, but I have come to terms with them. And perhaps that facing of reality is built into our deepest selves, to save us being disappointed, if not indeed humiliated. If so, it is possible that those who think that they, as individuals, can carry out a wonderful heavenly plan if only other people wouldn't get in the way, are born without that vital bit of inward communication, as a colour-blind person is born without the gene that the more fortunate of us have. Whatever the rights and wrongs of the Green party's break-up, Mrs Parkin is well out of it.

Where are you now, Charlemagne?

No French hero has been left unturned in the Maastricht fight, writes Charles Bremner

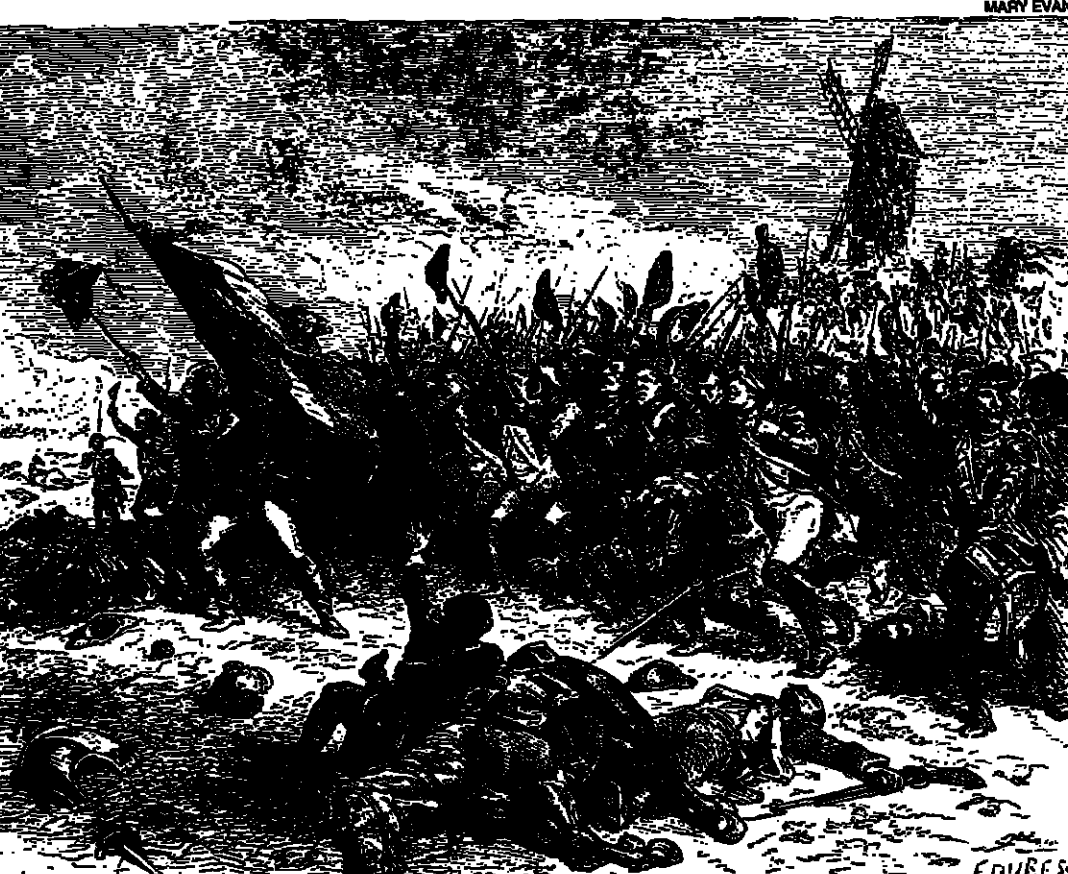
While Britons have pondered financial matters this week, the French have been preoccupied with the grand forces of history. Little troubled by serious pressure on its currency, France has been free to reflect on the role that destiny, with a hand from François Mitterrand, has reserved for it in deciding the fate of a continent. Domestic politics may have driven much of the campaign but in the final hours France's already acute sense of the dramatic is being sharpened by recourse to the glories of the past and present, from Charlemagne through to the current reign of the Emperor François. The results are a little confusing, but there is some consensus: the French rather like the idea that once again their country is putting the wind up the rest of Europe.

With his exquisite sense of timing and his passion for history, it was no accident that M. Mitterrand chose September 20 for his referendum. The day marks the 200th anniversary of the battle of Valmy, where the revolutionary army, crying "Vive La Nation", routed the invading Prussians. Goethe, who was a spectator, later declared the moment to be the birth of "a new epoch in the history of the world". Valéry Giscard d'Estaing summoned the spirit of Valmy this week, wielding it as a symbol of the French pride that would come with Maastricht. No one wondered whether the for-

mer president, whose friendship with Helmut Schmidt propelled Europe in the 1970s, really wanted to celebrate the defeat of the Germans.

The air is thick with such conflicting symbols as politicians and pundits have ransacked the past, mixing metaphors for the present passions. Some are far-fetched. Max Gallo, the writer and left-wing anti-European, sees a replay of the Dreyfus affair. Jean-Marie Le Pen, whose National Front party has hijacked Joan of Arc to its ultranationalist cause, sees Maastricht as a new retreat from French North Africa. Laurent Fabius, the Socialist party leader, is appealing to "the spirit of 1789 and 1848" and every editorial heavy-weight, for they are all pro-Maastricht, is casting the consequences of a *non* as a replay of May 1968 combined with the battle of Berezina (where Napoleon, was vetoed by the Russians). The spectre of Bismarck has been agitated by both sides in recent days on the principle that Maastricht will either save Europe from future Prussian powerplay or precipitate it.

Napoleon and Charles de Gaulle have been the most active in the debate, which makes sense since both tried to construe



Vive La Nation! The battle of Valmy; but will the French, two centuries later, cry Vive L'Europe?

L'Europe, by arms or ego. There is, however, little agreement on what they would have done about Maastricht. Spiritual and blood descendants of *le grand Charles* have been squabbling among themselves, with dire consequences for Jacques Chirac's *Rassemblement pour la République*, the biggest opposition party. One side insists de Gaulle would have above all preserved the Franco-German entente. Britain and the rest of Europe were just "legumes", as

he once said. The others say he would never have sold France to the Bundesbank.

The recourse to the past is much more than a politicians' parlour game. Since the country knows down and re-invents its institutions every few decades, through force or, more recently, referendum, the stakes are truly historic. A *no* could conceivably drive M. Mitterrand from office and bring change in the constitution which was tailored for General de Gaulle in 1958 and

which M. Mitterrand, in opposition, used to denounce as a "permanent coup d'état". Most citizens, and M. Mitterrand himself, are said to favour presidential terms shorter than the seven year stretches, which encourage pretensions of imperial mystery in the incumbents of the Elysée. The Maastricht question is very much an extension of the quarrels which define the Republic's image of itself. As Serge July, the editor of *Libération*, sees it, France is being asked to

approve a break with the omnipotent central government which has served it well since the Revolution and accept a supranational form of democracy based on a balance of powers and rule of law, like the Anglo-Saxon one. In "Franco-French" terms, the European "space", as the advocates like to call it, will be Girondin and not Jacobin. Not so fast, say the opponents, who see the country falling prey to the Robespierres of Brussels, Bonn and Frankfurt. The real Jacobins, they say, are the pro-Europeans who want to allow the creation of a despotic super-state. The technocrat as arch-villain has of course had his hands on the levers of French power since Colbert invented him. Bonaparte perfected him and Robert Schuman later helped send him to Brussels but neither side seems to recognise him as one of their own.

While the rest of Europe cannot wait for the French to make up their minds, it is clear that the campaign has been profoundly healthy. *Le Figaro* called it "a bout of collective psychotherapy which the French have not experienced for a long time". Elisabeth Guigou, the minister for European affairs and the quintessence of a technocrat, says it has brought the people back into touch with the elite. Her colleagues may also be remembering a final history lesson. Since the 14th century France has rejected all schemes for continental union which it has not itself led.



...and moreover

PHILIP HOWARD

A daily journalist necessarily travels light in paraphernalia and depth of knowledge. Nobody who scribbles so much, so fast, on so many diverse topics can carry much baggage of weighty reference. There is no time. It is not his *métier*. I first learnt this as a cub reporter on *The Times*, doing the late night shift, viz. sitting in the office all night, catching up on "exclusives" in the opposition, and dealing with news breaking around the world.

At about 10.20 pm the editor, an infrequent and awesome visitor in those days, shambled into the news room and said: "Sydney Silverman's bill to abolish capital punishment has just received its second reading. Write a feature on the history of capital punishment for the late edition." This meant 1,000 words in 90 minutes off the top of my head or the seat of my pants. I stuttered: "Surely we should have foreseen this? Not my subject. Know nothing about capital punishment. Surely better to wait and do it properly when the Home Affairs Correspondent comes in tomorrow morning." The Ed said, coldly: "It's your job." So I did it and it was published. I do not suppose it is preserved as a classic text in the literature of the grisly topic.

What the short-distance sprinting jurno needs is sources where he can find any conceivable fact, and many inconceivable ones, fast. The new computerised databanks deluge him with more facts than anyone could possibly use, as every article on capital punishment published anywhere

in the world scrolls down his screen in a gross and ghastly Niagara. The essential tools of the trade are good reference books, which will vary from journalist to journalist. The fox knows many things. The hedgehog and the journalist one big thing. In the case of the journalist: how to find any fact under the sun or over the moon, fast. Whatever he or she does, *Whitaker's Almanack* is one of the essential tools for a journalist, for the quantity of diverse, docty facts.

This autumn is the 125th anniversary of the journalist's indispensable *vade et scribe mecum*. Few of us are lucky enough to have memories as capacious for trivia as Dr Johnson's. You are lucky if you know someone like Sam. So, for impossible questions such as the names of the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses or details of last year's Badgers Act, I turn at once to *Whitaker's*, just as for trivial pursuits of a linguistic or literary kind I turn to *Brewer's*.

And why, pray, do some almanacks (*Whitaker, Wisden*) spell their almanack with a "k", and others without. These are deep waters. *Whitaker*, not to be found even in your almanack, (Sherlock Holmes used *Whitaker's* to decipher a code in *The Valley of Fear*) The best advice is that almanacks take their name from a Byzantine Greek and thence medieval Latin word for a calendar with astronomical and astrological data. They were issued in manuscript as early as 1150, and were compendiums of information, jokes and proverbs.

Etymologists even more adventurous than the tearaway *Brewer* suggest that almanack in Latin and Greek came from the Moorish *al-manākh*, the weather: originally a place (connoted by the prefix *ma*) where camels kneel (*nakhā* to kneel) — hence, a camp — hence, a settlement — hence, settled weather. (Too many hences here, Ed.) Almanack, hence, means "that which records the weather (one may expect)".

True to its origins, *Whitaker's* opens with more astronomical and tidal facts than a prudent hack would shake an astrolabe at. This is one of the sections that I have never had use for yet, preferring to take my astronomy poetically rather than factually on nights when the moon is full. But who knows when the editor is going to come striding in with some impossible request? I shall know where to look when he does. The other bit of *Whitaker's* that is wasted on me is the section of small and muddy half-tone pictures of events of the previous year. But so long as it includes so many absurd and useless facts in its chunky little 1247 pages, I can forgive *Whitaker* a spot of unalloyed frivolity. From their beginning, almanacks, with or without a "k" for the camels to kneel on, have had their jokes and astrologies.

My present vol does not include much on capital punishment, but I dare say at a pinch, late at night, under the lash of the deadline, it might deliver. Roll on for another century, old crutch of journalists. Some of us out here need you desperately.

No deals, Mr Major

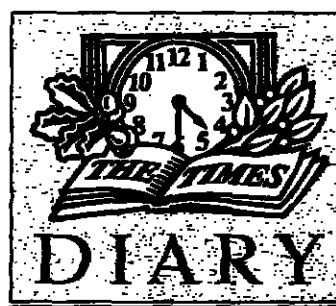
FORMER colleagues of John Major from the prime minister's days at Standard Chartered Bank are not in the least surprised at the sterling debate on the foreign exchange this week. Graham Bell, who worked with Major in the bank's marketing department, yesterday recalled the day in 1975 when the future prime minister was told by a senior bank official that he had no future as a foreign exchange dealer.

Bell, who retired from the bank about 10 years ago, says: "John was always more interested in politics than banking and I never doubted he had the ruthless streak necessary to carry him into the Cabinet. But I can distinctly recall him telling me: 'I have been told by the chief dealer that I have got no future in dealing.' He just was not cut out for it."

The chief dealer, Bell says, was Alan Orlich, now the bank's deputy chairman. His advice was probably sound, for Major went on to great success elsewhere in the bank, ultimately becoming head of public affairs.

Bell, who now lives in Ascot, went on to become an internal auditor at the bank. He has been in correspondence with Bryan Gould, shadow heritage minister, over economic policy but is not a member of any political party. "I just think John has made quite a mess of this one," he says.

Will Manser, group public affairs manager for Standard Chartered Bank, confirms that Orlich was Major's superior at the time. But Manser, who worked with Major in the public affairs department, for four years before he became an MP in 1979, and who has kept in touch, insists that the future prime minister was not



removed from the dealing operation because he was no good. "It was always the intention to move him around all departments. I don't think John was an active dealer as such." Just as well, perhaps.

Was it censorship when BBC Radio Four this week pulled its transmission of *The Fatherland*, a controversial play about apartheid? Not at all, says Jeremy Mortimer, the drama editor. "A technical hitch." Sort of, anyway. As the play was about to go on air it was discovered that the tapes were missing. They were found — too late for transmission — in the office of another programme which had used them to run a trailer earlier in the day. The drama department was grateful for the publicity. But it would have been even more grateful had the tapes been returned.

Storm and Drang

IF Chancellor Kohl was ever in any doubt what the Tory party thinks of the Germans he need only ask his own MPs. Yesterday a group of angry young Tory Euro-sceptical backbenchers returned to London full of tales of fear and loathing after spending most of the past week with their German counterparts in Stuttgart.

The British contingent, which included David Liddington, David

Willetts, Charles Hendry and Alan Duncan (who loaned his house to John Major's leadership campaign), were guests of the Konrad Adenauer Institute. "It is fair to say that we left them with a clear view of what we think. But they were as shell-shocked as we were," says Hendry, a former special adviser to Tony Newton.

If Hendry was in the right place at the right time, his old boss was most definitely not. Newton, now the Leader of the Commons and the man responsible for organising next week's recall of Parliament, is in New Zealand.

Some small support for the ailing pound: at least a few francs have been pouring into London over recent days as French citizens unable to bet on the outcome of Sunday's referendum under French law have turned to the British bookies. Ladbroke, which closed his book yesterday with odds on a oui vote at 4 to 7 and for a non at 5 to 4, says a quarter of all the money it has taken has come from France.

Man for the Met

SIR Peter de la Billière. Last sighted scurrying around London's bookshops signing copies of his Gulf War memoirs, is being mooted for a brave new career. The retired general, now a director of the merchant bank Robert Fleming, could soon be declaring war on London's criminals, according to the Police Federation. The latest issue of *Police* magazine, which knows a thing or two about detective work but also likes to prick the Home Office establishment, claims that de la Billière's name "is circulating among the top brass at Scotland Yard" as a possible successor to Sir Peter Imbert, due to retire shortly as commissioner of the Metropolitan police.

A few months ago it was all out and dried for John Smith, the dep-

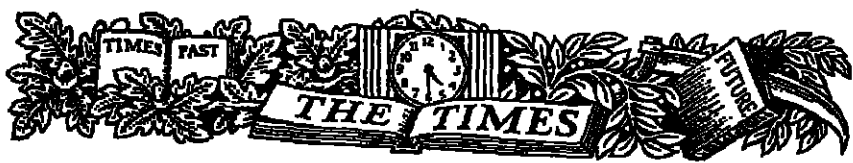
uty commissioner," says a police informant. "Since Kenneth Clarke became home secretary it is up in the air again. He has yet to be convinced that the job should not go to

There goes your plan to use scud missiles



an outsider." There are precedents. In the 1920s the Home Office turned to Air Marshal Lord Trenchard to shake up the Met. "If Clarke wants to be radical, de la Billière would not be a bad choice," says our super grass, pointing out that the general, as director of the SAS, masterminded the 1980 storming of the Iranian embassy.

Laura Patten, the 17-year-old daughter of the new governor-general of Hong Kong, has been left in safe hands. When Chris Patten returned briefly to Britain this week one of his tasks was to install his daughter in comfortable lodgings while she continues her education. The Foreign Office minister Tristan Garel-Jones should prove both a suitable landlord and protector. "I think she attracted more attention than the new governor-general when the family went out there," says Garel-Jones. "We have known all the Patten girls since they were little. We are very happy to have Laura."



A TOUS LES FRANCAIS

Before a day of great national decision you may not want the advice of your friends. You may particularly resent British advice on a subject which has so often in recent years divided us. Nor does *The Times* normally seek direct influence on voters in foreign elections. But, as we once said in turbulent times some century and a half ago, "England watches with deep but varied emotion the revolutions of the great sister empire." The abdication of Bourbons once mattered to us. Your vote on Maastricht matters to us now.

In February 1848 we could speak with the ponderous confidence for which the times and *The Times* were known. "Bound by many natural and political affinities," we said, "with interwoven annals and cognate institutions, the two states are placed together, by universal consent, at the head of European civilisation." The language may have changed, the consent may no longer be so universal but the affinities remain. Your referendum tomorrow is a European event. We are all engaged in its outcome.

Your verdict on the Maastricht treaty will be decisive because, from the earliest days of Europe's postwar reconstruction, men of the calibre of Jean Monnet have stamped French influence on all the institutions of the European Community. This success has not always been to the liking of other Europeans, who have come to perceive the EC as designed by and for French interests.

Past commitments ensure, however, that, whatever the result of tomorrow's vote, your commitment to the "European idea" will remain unquestioned. The issue before you is not whether France is to continue to work for the Treaty of Rome's goal of "ever closer union", but whether the route mapped at Maastricht is the right one.

You have the opportunity, denied to most of your fellow Europeans, to evaluate a treaty negotiated in your name and concluded last December with minimum debate. The many ambiguities of the text are no accident. Nor are they merely the inevitable consequence of compromise. They are mistakes which you alone can erase on Sunday.

The OUI campaign makes two main claims. The first is that French influence in Europe and the world depend on abandoning the franc for a single European currency and central bank, within a European Union with a common foreign policy and, if President Mitterrand has his way, an EC defence strategy independent of American power. Your president, in a curious twist of logic, has even presented this far-reaching constitutional change as an insurance policy against change: a protective umbrella under which France can shelter from the free market in the frontier-free Community which will open for business as the clocks chime in the new year.

The second is that this treaty is the culmination of four decades of Franco-German rapprochement and, more darkly, your unique chance to curtail the power of a unified Germany. History, much invoked in this debate, has a sense of humour. You are being asked to take this grand design on trust in a week when the Bundesbank has helped destroy the European exchange-rate mechanism.

You have been warned by Jack Lang that in the event of a Non, "a depression would hit the whole of Europe". Yet the markets have responded buoyantly to the rupture of the monetary chains which have enabled Germany to share the costs of German unification with the rest of Europe, freely exporting its recession.

The OUI campaign interprets this week's chaos as further justification for hastening into a monetary union which would end the supremacy of the Bundesbank. But in exchange for what? President Mitterrand insists that the new European Central Bank would follow policies laid down by the EC's national governments — with Germany, by implication, just one voice among others. Economics has never been your president's forte. The text of the Maastricht treaty insists

that the EC bank governors may take instructions from no politician. Even if it did not, can you imagine that Germany, whose parliament is now demanding its own version of the British "opt out clause", will give up its deutschmark for anything less immune to political pressure than the Bundesbank?

The insistence with which you have discussed such questions in recent weeks has been the admiration of Europe — the more so, since your president unleashed what has become a great national debate casually, almost by accident, and with every show of expecting it to be a formality. Your government appeared at first to think that it need serve up no more than a comic-strip campaign, spiced with xenophobia.

You were to be swayed by posters caricaturing Uncle Sam, Japanese Sumo wrestlers, Hitler and the German "demons". Selective quotations from Napoleon I, whose methods of unifying Europe are somewhat out of fashion, and of such stout defenders of modern French nationalism as Charles de Gaulle, were to be reinforced by a posse of celebrity cheer leaders, who were astonished to meet ordinary citizens who have actually read the Maastricht treaty.

A few in the anti-Maastricht camp have responded in kind. But the French people have sharply reminded politicians that their place is as servants not masters. Simone Veil likened the Non campaigners to "children knocking down sandcastles". Throughout France, you insisted on deciding for yourselves whether or not the sandcastles would stand the test of time.

You properly wanted to know what price in austerity and unemployment France would pay, what balance of power Maastricht would strike between the Brussels bureaucracy and your own democratic institutions. You wanted to know whether a foreign policy determined by at least a dozen governments would genuinely increase French standing in the world, or condemn them all to collective paralysis.

Both camps have distorted the debate. The extreme fringes of left and right have appealed to narrow nationalism: voters have been encouraged to link the treaty to unpopular reforms of the common agricultural policy and fears of uncontrolled immigration. In reality CAP reform is inevitable with or without the treaty, and France is already committed under the 1992 Single Market, and its adherence to the Schengen treaty, to allow free movement of people within the Community.

You have been told by your political establishment that by voting "Non" France will be "the black sheep of Europe" (Jacques Chirac), would send Germany into "anti-democratic ferment" (Pierre Berégovoy), lose all influence in the EC (Jacques Delors), or enable "Washington and Tokyo to rub their hands, the yen and the dollar in triumph" (Jack Lang).

Voltaire would have regarded this with amusement. Politicians, more than most people, "n'emploient les paroles que pour déguiser leurs pensées". Most of them know that a Non will not end the "construction of Europe" nor a OUI greatly simplify the task. The treaty before you was designed in the panic of 1990, when France's over-riding preoccupation was to lock a united Germany into the western part of a still divided Europe. The Maastricht model reflects the needs of a Europe that now no longer exists.

This is the first time in four decades that you have fully discussed what you mean by "Europe". Your politicians, like our own, have run too far ahead of their electorates. The unaccountable institutions of Europe are not so far from that "narrow body, corrupted with the endless ramifications of patronage" which we once accused Louis-Philippe of creating. "The vast web" does not quite hang "from one man" as it did in 1848. But your message to your leaders tomorrow should be an equally clear "Non" on behalf of France and of all Europe.

THE PRICE OF PRIDE

What price the saving of John Major's face? By now there is not much to rescue. But for 24 hours this week the government tried at great expense to hold fast at bay. Even after it had become quite clear to some of the government's own officials that sterling could not be supported, Mr Major decided to pump £15-20 billion into the currency markets in the hope of shifting the responsibility for devaluation away from the government to the market's elemental force. The result was a net loss to the taxpayer of at least £1 billion, plus a drastic slimming down of foreign currency reserves. But this is by no means the first time a government has spent taxpayers' money on its own political ends.

All devaluations happen too late. In the meantime, huge sums of money are spent trying and failing to buck the markets. In 1931, a national government was formed precisely to protect sterling's position against the gold standard, since the previous Labour government had made such a hash of managing the economy. Within a month, Britain had abandoned the gold standard, and not without cost. In the two months before abandonment, over £200 million (in 1931 money) had been withdrawn in gold and credits from London.

In 1949, Labour too had to devalue, though much against the instincts of the Chancellor, Stafford Cripps, who was sick in a sanatorium in Switzerland. Again, the Bank had informed the Treasury that the lack of reserves made it harder and harder to sustain an unrealistic rate for sterling. Again, though, politicians put off the political pain for as long as they could.

Perhaps the closest parallel, though, is with the Labour government of the mid-

1960s. At the end of 1964, the year Labour won power, the governor of the Bank of England, Lord Cromer, pressed for massive public spending cuts, especially after a rise in the bank rate had done nothing to stabilise the pound. The prime minister, Harold Wilson, asked why foreign speculators should be allowed to override British voters and demand Tory measures from a Labour government. Lord Cromer was forced to raise a \$3 billion loan from other central bankers and embarked upon what was then the largest ever rescue operation attempted by international bankers. Still devaluation could only be postponed until 1967.

Political pride is defended in other ways too, leaving the taxpayer out of pocket. Concorde, the only white elephant ever to fly, was a monstrously uneconomic project, defended remorselessly in cabinet by Tony Benn in whose constituency it was being built. (Barbara Castle described it in her diaries as "Wedgie's toy".)

More recently, around £6 billion was spent by Margaret Thatcher's government to mitigate the worst effects of the poll tax. And the history of by-elections and general elections is scattered with political bribes. Would the Humber Bridge exist had it not been promised during the Kingston-on-Hull by-election in 1966?

At least the nation can comfort itself that it was only money that was poured away, not blood. National pride has too often been paid for with the lives of young men in war. Nonetheless Mr Major's quixotic battle with the speculators still seems the economic equivalent of the Charge of the Light Brigade: half a billion, half a billion, half a billion onwards...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

No let-up in struggle to find a practicable way through the monetary maze

From Mr Nicholas Bennett

Sir, The events of the past few days present the government with an excellent opportunity to reassess the fundamentals of economic policy. The engine and wheels have fallen off the ERM (exchange-rate mechanism) and the bodywork is full of rust; there is therefore little point in refilling its tank with petrol. Faced with a challenge it could never surmount, the ERM is effectively finished.

Interest rates can now be used to tackle UK economic conditions rather than to pay for the cost of German reunification.

Squeezing inflation out of the economy rightly remains the government's prime objective (indeed if it were not, the financial markets would soon reduce the value of sterling still further and fuel inflation), but such a policy is not incompatible with reductions in interest rates to aid economic growth.

Whilst undoubtedly there was some speculation in the financial markets, encouraged by the ERM one-way ticket, the value of sterling was determined, as it always will be in the long run, by the markets' perception of the state of the British economy. There is considerable concern about the balance-of-payments deficit and the size of the government's spending programme both as a percentage of GDP (gross domestic product) and the effect it has had on the PSBR (public-sector borrowing requirement).

It is vital, if we wish to prevent the re-emergence of inflation as a result of falls in the exchange rate, that as well as reducing interest rates the government should also cut public expenditure. Only then will the confidence of the markets be such that sterling will once again appreciate.

Yours faithfully,

NICHOLAS BENNETT
(Under-Secretary of State for Wales, 1990-2)
7 Harewood Close, SE23.
September 18.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, How John Major must long for the French to vote "no" on Sunday. His humiliation in the ERM must seem just a taste for the Maastricht debate, if there is to be one. It must now be obvious that, as exchange rates are merely a reflection of economic reality, if the stresses of the ERM were too much, the pain of one currency may be unbearable.

John Major's claim that Maastricht entrenches subsidiarity is no more convincing than his recent claims

about sterling. Maastricht is clearly part of the progress to one currency. Britain included, and eventually one state.

Mr Major may survive this crisis, but should not survive the next if the Commons does not ratify Maastricht. At stake will be not only his leadership but four years of Tory government. His one escape will be to hold a referendum, but how much easier if the French would only vote "no".

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.
September 17.

From Mr R. M. Johnson

Sir, The argument against independent central banks (leading article, September 15) is flawed. Whether or not politicians are successful in their efforts to "manipulate their economies for political ends" is irrelevant because they always seem to try, and the effects of their efforts are often harmful.

Moreover, politicians are much more susceptible to the "bad decisions" which you describe as "their prerogative" than are the boards of independent banks because political selection is more dependent on sycophancy and less on economic literacy.

As for the economic history of the past 15 years, both Germany and the USA have benefited from consistent monetary prudence, courtesy of their central banks, and suffered from erratic fiscal policies, thanks to their politicians. Britain has suffered erratic policies on both counts.

If we had had an independent central bank which adopted the same monetary policies as the Fed and the Bundesbank during Mrs Thatcher's brief experiment with fiscal prudence in the mid-Eighties, Britain would not have needed the ERM to control inflation and might now have been enjoying the golden era of Mr Major's dreams instead of the slump of his making.

Yours faithfully,
R. M. JOHNSON,
32 Polwarth Terrace, Edinburgh.
September 15.

From Mr Adrian Cosker

Sir, The fundamental error in the government's ERM policy was, and is, judging by Mr Lamont's recent remarks still is, a failure to distinguish between the importance of relative price changes (i.e., the inflation rate) and the absolute price level (which is directly influenced by the external parity of the pound) as measures of the likely competitiveness of our economy.

From the Secretary of the Protestant Truth Society

Sir, You suggest that the Act of Settlement of 1701 should be repealed.

Bearing in mind the tensions and divided allegiances which often arise from mixed marriages, repeal of this important act would do nothing to lessen the possibility of further embarrassment to the royal family. It would, however, endanger the stability of the throne, since it is so closely related to the even more fundamental Bill of Rights of 1689.

Yours faithfully,

A. J. ROBERTS,
Secretary,
The Protestant Truth Society,
184 Fleet Street, EC4.
September 14.

From Mr Nigel M. Thomas

Sir, The Civil List came into being in the reign of King George III, when he surrendered the land revenues of the Crown to England and Wales, to be collected on the public account in exchange.

If the government is concerned by the number of the list's beneficiaries or the size of payments made under it, then why not abolish it altogether and

simply fund the royal family from the income of the Crown Estate Commissioners?

In the year 1990-1 the commissioners' surplus revenue of £61 million was paid over to the exchequer; those who now criticise the Civil List can hardly complain of this surplus being lost to the government if they now seek to renegotiate the basis of the list.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL M. THOMAS,
11 Stone Buildings,
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
September 14.

From Mr J. W. Skillington

Sir, "Other members of the family", you state, "must be allowed to become as near to private citizens as ingenuity can bring about... They can be privatised". I cannot agree.

All members of the royal family are in a way extensions of the sovereign, serving to give dignity to functions and ceremonies and to give honour and prestige to worthy causes.

Yours faithfully,
J. W. SKILLINGTON,
20 Morley Street,
Kettering,
Northamptonshire.
September 12.

From Sir John Ure

Sir, Your Diary suggested (September 16) that the cancellation of the prime minister's visit to Expo 92 in Seville came "as a blessing in disguise to those running the British pavilion". Of course, in an operation of this scale there are some problems, but I and my 100 British colleagues are genuinely disappointed at the understandable cancellation (or postponement) of this visit. We are proud of our pavilion here, and we think Mr Major would have been too.

Your diarist says that we have "only" received 1.75 million visitors. If we continue at this rate, we shall surpass our initial target. The capacity of our theatres and welcome areas would not allow a faster flow than we have been receiving from the constant queue outside our water-wall.

The impressions of your columnist Matthew Parris (August 17) seem much more typical than those of your diarist. He found the British representation here "a complete triumph" and "the best show in town".

For those who find the conflicting views in your columns confusing, I have only one word of advice: come to see for yourselves.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN URE
(UK Commissioner General to Expo 92, Seville),
United Kingdom Pavilion Expo 92,
Isla de la Cartuja,
41092 Seville, Spain.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number 071-782 5046.

Weekend Money letters, page 26

Royal rights

From Mr K. P. Platt

Sir, Your leader of September 12, "Royal liberation", was timely and sensible. It might never have been written, however, were it not for the recent unsavoury tabloid reporting. This is good drawn forth from evil.

The 1701 Act of Settlement and the 1772 Royal Marriages Act together constitute an unwarranted interference in the rights of members of the sovereign's family to marry whomsoever they choose; they also constitute an insult to the loyalty of that significant proportion of our population whose religious adherence is not to the established church. I know of no other country in the EC where such restrictions are placed on the religious freedom of both head of state and citizen alike.

One need not dispute the claim that who and how royalty marry is "of the highest importance to the state" in order to acknowledge that the religious affiliation of those they choose to marry is of no consequence to anyone but the individuals concerned.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH PLATT,
47 Heathurst Road,
Sanderstead, Surrey.

Human beings all

From Mr John Bowls, MP for Battersea (Conservative)

Sir, The adjacent articles (September 12) by Clifford Longley on Catholic "gay" policy and Nigel Hawkes on gender differences seemed tellingly juxtaposed.

Homosexuals and heterosexuals are different just as men and women are different. The difference is not as defined as some wishfully think and the cross-over is blurred through bisexuality and transsexuality.

Such differences as there are, however, do not justify discrimination, negative or positive. They do justify the removal of barriers to achievement and self-fulfilment. One of the chief barriers is intolerance, so it has been said to see the Catholic Church

Herbal remedies

From the President of the Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine

Sir, The letter in *The Lancet* cited in your report of September 11 highlighted the possibility of toxic effects from Chinese herbal preparations. The fact that no member of the Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine has reported any toxic reactions underlines the importance of treatment by properly trained and regulated practitioners.

The preparation identified by the National Poisons Unit as a possible

cause of liver failure included a herb which is not listed in any official Chinese pharmacopoeia and would not therefore be used by any of our members. Chinese herbal preparations have been used in the Far East for centuries and their effects carefully documented. Extensive scientific studies in China and Japan have shown them to be effective and safe.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD J. BLACKWELL,
President, The Register of Chinese Herbal Medicine,
21 Warbeck Road, W12.

apparently promoting rather than condemning prejudice. In the same way it has been said to see the nonsense of "politically correct" gender language, which reinforces prejudices on both sides and loses sight of the need to build a society where there is real equality of opportunity.

I hope that our nation will truly come to be "at peace with itself", with obstacles to achievement removed for those whose sexuality, gender, disability, race or creed make life more difficult. Leaders of nations, churches, the media and political movements could all start to achieve this if they treated each person first and foremost, as Clifford Longley says, as a human being.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN BOWLS,
House of Commons.

Housing muddle

From Mr Keith Petherick-Brian

Sir, I inherited with my estate, in an area of outstanding beauty, planning permission granted several years ago, to build a worker's bungalow of concrete blocks, with concrete-tiled roof, on the most salient part of the land.

Preferring to construct a stone-built cottage, with a traditional slate roof, hidden amongst trees in a corner of the land near a hamlet of stone cottages, I asked a planning officer of the local authority if I could have my permission amended and extended.

He said no and advised me to build the bungalow before the planning permission expired. (And he gratuitously castigated me for an intention he imagined I might have of not complying with the details of the planning permission.)

So an area of high unemployment and housing shortage is deprived of a cottage and a job. Alternatively, an eyesore must be constructed.

There is also a quagmire planning requirement that certain dwellings can be used only as holiday lets and certain others only as permanent residences.

Another obstacle to balanced countryside development and prosperity is the anachronistic restriction on some houses that they can be occupied only by people in agricultural occupation, a now rare species.

When Michael Heseltine was minister for the environment I put it to him at a public meeting that it was about time this restriction was lifted. He replied that the restriction must be retained because otherwise owners of such properties might sell at a profit.

Yours truly,
KEITH PETHERICK-BRIAN,
Windsor,
St Martin-by-Looe, Cornwall.
September 18.

Light in our darkness

From Mr Christopher Gillibrand

Sir, The agenda for the League of Nations during the week before September 3, 1939, when Neville Chamberlain announced that Britain was at war with Germany included an item of far more importance than the legislative protection for bats promulgated by the European Community (report, September 8; letter, September 15). The members were discussing the standardisation of European railway level crossings.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER GILLIBRAND,
As from: 25 Rothsey Court,
Harleyford Street, SE11.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number 071-782 5046.

Weekend Money letters, page 26

OBITUARIES

GEORGE CRILE

George Washington Crile Jr, a surgeon who attracted the wrath of the American medical establishment for his successful campaign against unnecessary surgery, died of lung cancer in Cleveland, Ohio, on September 11 aged 84. He was born in Cleveland on November 3, 1907.

UNCOUNTED patients in the United States, especially women suffering from breast cancer, have cause to be grateful for George Crile's minimalist attitude towards his own profession. He believed that drastic surgery was often unwarranted, and that many surgeons performed heroic feats with the scalpel for their own glorification, or even for their enrichment. And he said so, loudly. Among doctors who routinely collected enormous fees for their work on the operating table this view was, to say the least, not popular. Crile's aversion to over-use

worked since gaining his MD from Harvard Medical School in 1929, Crile began to work on alternative treatments for thyroid cancer to replace intrusive surgery as much as possible. Among his suggestions, since widely adopted, were treatments with new radioactive iodines.

With fewer thyroid operations to perform, Crile turned his attention to breast cancer in the late 1950s. At that time in the US the standard procedure was radical mastectomy — removal of the entire breast, the surrounding lymph glands and major chest muscles. Crile himself had once been a firm believer in this operation, but he came under the influence of Reginald Murray, a Scottish physician, who was combining partial mastectomy with radiation treatment.

This procedure, along with lumpectomy for women in the early stages of the disease, was already widely practised in Europe. But American surgeons proved highly resistant to change, even after Crile published a paper in 1961 to demonstrate that the survival rates for lumpectomy and simple mastectomy were comparable to those for the radical operation. He became the object of "ridicule and scorn" among his peers.

But Crile did not give up. In two books, *What Women Should Know About Breast Cancer Controversy and Surgery, Your Choices, Your Alternatives*, he brought the debate out into the open by encouraging patients to demand information so that they might make informed decisions, rather than be treated like children. As more and more American women revolted against the doctor-knives tradition, a growing number of surgeons began to agree with them and with Crile. Today, lumpectomy and simple mastectomy have become the treatments of first choice.

Crile was associated with the Cleveland Clinic for more than half a century. He retired as head of his department in 1968, but continued to work as an emeritus consultant. He also remained a writer, compulsive diarist, world traveller, diver and film maker.

George Crile lost his first wife to cancer in 1963 and is survived by his second wife, one son, and three daughters.



of the scalpel sprang from his experiences in the US Navy during the second world war when he conducted research on ruptured appendices. He found them far less life-threatening than commonly believed, which led to the conclusion that emergency appendectomies on board submarines, while courageous, could do more harm than good.

"I came home from the war convinced that operations in many fields of surgery were either too radical, or not even necessary," he once said. "Universal acceptance of a procedure does not necessarily make it right."

On his return to the Cleveland Clinic, where he had

MILLICENT FENWICK

Millicent Fenwick, one of the most unusual and unorthodox politicians ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives, died of heart failure at her home in Bernardsville, New Jersey, on September 16 aged 82. She was born in Manhattan on February 25, 1910.

PIPE smoking, which she took up when her doctor warned her to give up cigarettes, was perhaps the least of Millicent Fenwick's idiosyncracies. As a Republican Congresswoman from one of the wealthiest constituencies in New Jersey, she persistently fought for liberal causes that were well to the left of most members of the Democratic Party. Tall and patrician, but down-to-earth and even pungent in her speech, she inspired the Lacey Davenport character in Garry Trudeau's "Doonesbury" cartoons, published in *The Guardian*.

She was, said one admirer, "the Katharine Hepburn of politics. With her dignity and elegance, she could get away with saying things others couldn't."

It was true. Once, in a debate over equal rights for women, she fixed her twinkling eye on a male legislator who said: "I just don't like this amendment. I've always thought of women as kissable, cuddly and smelling good."

"That's the way I feel about men, too," responded Fenwick. "I only hope for your sake that you haven't been disappointed as often as I have."

Millicent Fenwick was born with the proverbial silver spoon in her mouth. Brought up by her father in a 50-room house in New Jersey, after her mother had been drowned in the sinking of the *Lusitania* when she was five,



she never received a high school diploma or college degree but was fluent in Italian, French and Spanish. She also studied philosophy under Bertrand Russell at the New School for Social Research, which may have accounted for her liberal leanings when she finally entered Congress at the advanced age of 64.

There, she fought with tenacity on a wide range of issues, including civil rights, peace in Vietnam, aid for asbestos victims, help for the poor, prison reform, strip-mining controls, reduction of military programmes, urban renewal, election campaign spending limits, gun control, and restrictions on capital

punishment. Her struggle to win toilet facilities for migrant farmworkers earned her the nickname of "Outhouse Millicent". It was an agenda to make her aristocratic constituents in horse country blink with astonishment, but they continued to re-elect her until, in 1982, she gave up her House seat to run for the US Senate and lost narrowly to Frank Lautenberg, a Democratic millionaire.

Lautenberg spent millions on a campaign portraying Fenwick as a doddering eccentric. Doddering, she was not, but she was certainly eccentric. She refused to accept contributions for her own campaign from influence-peddling polit-

ical action committees.

As a young woman, Fenwick scandalised her family by falling in love with a married man, Hugh Fenwick. The couple later married but the union ended in divorce, and she was left with two children and her husband's debts. Refusing money from her family, she scraped by on her own, modelling briefly for *Harper's Bazaar* and then working as a writer and editor at *Vogue* magazine. In 1948 she compiled *Vogue's Book of Etiquette* which sold a million copies.

She inherited a fortune on the death of her father in 1956, but by that time frugality had become a habit. Fenwick continued to count her change from coffee, use one lamp to work by, and drive a cheap Chevrolet that stood out in a community where Mercedes are thicker in the parking lots than fleas on a bound dog. Her money was placed in a blind trust to avoid political conflicts of interest.

Fenwick's political career began in 1969, when she won a seat in the New Jersey state legislature. Three years later she was appointed as New Jersey's first director of consumer affairs in which post she protected car buyers from deceptive advertising and compelled funeral homes to itemise their bills in advance.

After losing her race for the Senate, Fenwick was appointed by President Reagan as the first American envoy to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation in Rome.

She retired from that position in 1987. She regarded her role in the formation of the Helsinki Commission, which monitors compliance with the 1975 Helsinki Accord on human rights, as her greatest achievement.

Millicent Fenwick is survived by her son.

MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE PAYNE

Major General George Lefevre Payne, CB, CBE, the Director of Ordnance Services, 1964-68, died at Roehampton on September 10 aged 81. He was born at Kew on June 23, 1911.

GEORGE Payne was one of the senior officers of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps (RAOC) in the War Office during the early 1960s when, in the wake of the ending of National Service, the Nye Committee, followed by the McLeod Committee, delved into and restructured the Army's logistic services. As Deputy Director of Ordnance Services, he helped to defeat the more extreme proposals for amalgamation of the RAOC with the Royal Army Service Corps (RASC), and when he became Director himself, he had to implement the watered down compromise, which emerged from the McLeod deliberations of transferring to the RAOC only the supply functions of RASC, which became today's Royal Corps of Transport (RCT).

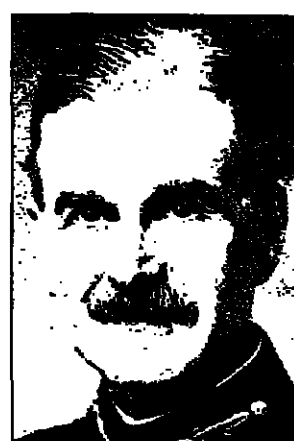
The son of an eminent doctor, George Payne was educated at King's School, Canterbury, and Sandhurst before being commissioned into the Leicestershire Regiment in 1931. An imposingly tall and good looking military figure, he served initially with the 2nd Battalion at Caterick and Londonderry, and then transferred to the 1st Battalion in India in 1933. Socially articulate and personally well organised, he was also an accomplished all round sportsman. He seemed set for a promising military career, when tragedy struck. Invalided home in 1936 with septicaemia and acute malaria, he was medically downgraded to "home service only". Realising that there was no future for him as an infantry officer, and having no wish to leave the Army with war so imminent, he transferred to the RAOC in 1938 and specialised in ammunition handling.

Medical problems still dogged him. He went to France with the BEF in 1939, but was again invalided home for the removal of a kidney stone. He spent the rest of the war in ammunition jobs in England. His career started to widen in 1950, when he was made secretary to the Army Dress Committee. One of his duties was to seek King George VI's approval for new patterns of uniform. His straightforward approach and obvious integrity enabled him to establish an unusually close rapport with the King. On one occasion he presented a new evening dress boot, which the committee wished to call "The George Boot". "Of course," said the King, "that names it after both of us".

Payne gained a reputation extended a year. Perhaps sadly, he lived just too long, and heard before he died of the coming amalgamation of the RAOC and RCT, recently announced in the "Options for Change" decisions of the Ministry of Defence.

After he retired from the Army in 1968, he was sought by industry, but, being a very caring person, he was more interested in helping people than making money for himself. For ten years, he served as Appeals Director of the National Council for Social Services; and then in 1983, he joined the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families' Association becoming its chairman in 1986 and president in 1991.

He married Betty Maude in 1938. They had twin sons and a third son who died in 1990. He nursed Betty, who had contracted Parkinson's Disease, for ten years before she died in 1982. His second marriage was to Georgina Cookson, the actress, in 1990. She and his twin sons survive him.



LOU JACOBS

Lou Jacobs, circus clown, died of heart failure at Sarasota Memorial Hospital, Sarasota, Florida, on September 13 aged 89. He was born in Bremerhaven, Germany, in 1903.

IT WAS said of Lou Jacobs that he made more people laugh in live performances than anyone else in history. Given a performing career that lasted for 60 years, and the size of the crowds drawn by the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus, the claim may well be true. For many years his white-face make-up, with its gargantuan goofy smile, great arching eyebrows and a red nose the size of a billiard ball, was used as the emblem for the Ringling circus. In 1966 it even appeared on a United States postage stamp.

Although he never worked in Britain — a starring role with Tom Arnold's Harringay Circus in London in 1953 was billed but never fulfilled — his face will be familiar to all circus-goers. So distinctive was his grotesque makeup that circuses around the globe have copied it as an advertising emblem.

Born Jacob Ludwig, he was an accomplished acrobat and contortionist as a youngster and made his performing debut in variety in Bremen at the age of seven. He emigrated to America at the age of 20, working in vaudeville until he was discovered by the American circus owner, John Ringling, who hired him as a clown. Jacobs remained with Ringling until his retirement and for at least 50 of his 64 years with the Ringling-Barnum circus — the world's largest travelling circus — he was the top featured clown.

With a tiny hat perched precariously on his elongated head, Jacobs became famous for the original gags he brought to the big top. Among them were sliding around the arena on water skis, and zooming past the audience in a motorised bathtub. He was also known for his Chihuahua dog, Knucklehead, that he trained assiduously to steal the show. Knucklehead, usually seen in the role of a crafty rabbit evading Jacobs and his



blunderbuss, was also known to appear in turkey feathers and, on one memorable occasion, sporting an elephant's trunk.

In 1952 Jacobs reached an even wider audience when he appeared in the Cecil B. DeMille epic *The Greatest Show on Earth*. He helped teach the rudiments of clowning to James Stewart who played Buttons, an extrovert and colourful augustine in the Lou Jacobs mold.

Jacobs was subsequently inducted into the International Circus Hall of Fame and the Clown Hall of Fame, and continued performing until the age of 82. Long ranked with three of this century's other great circus clowns — Otto Griebling, Emmett Kelly and Felix Adler — Jacobs took his art seriously and worried about the dearth of young people who wanted to be circus performers. In an

attempt to solve the problem in 1968 he became a founding "professor" at the Clown College of the Ringling Circus in Venice, Florida.

He continued to make occasional guest appearances at the Sarasota Circus Festival and the Great Circus Parade in Milwaukee and towards the end of his career he made a nostalgic return visit to Germany where a documentary television programme of his life was produced.

In 1953, Jacobs married Jean Rockwell, a circus trapeze artist with Ringling, who had been injured in a fall before thousands of spectators at the old Madison Square Garden arena in New York in 1948. They had two daughters, Lou Ann and Dolly, both of whom became aerial performers. His wife and daughters survive him.

Sale room

Marilyn studies reflect a golden age

By JOHN SHAW

THE golden age of Hollywood comes to London next month in a sale of more than 200 classic photographs of great stars from the 1930s to the early 1960s.

They are all from private collections and many have never been shown before. The centrepiece is a group of more than 100 pictures of Marilyn Monroe, who died 30 years ago.

The sale, at Bonhams in Knightsbridge on October 10, was organised by Cyril Frankel, a film producer and consultant director at the auction house, who said it was the largest number of photographs of the tragic star ever offered for sale. "There's such a range," he said. "It's very exciting. Nobody can fail to catch her wonderful quality. Some of the pictures are quite breathtaking. That girl comes over as pure sunshine."

Asked if she had been overexposed by too many anniversary tributes this year, he said: "No, I don't think she ever will be. She had a unique inner quality that always comes through and communicates to people. It's extraordinary."

There is an original print by Tom Kelly for the infamous nude calendar of 1949 and work by her favourite photographers such as Andre de Dienes, Bert Stern, who persuaded her to pose for "the last sitting", George Barris, who actually took the last photograph, and Milton Greene, producer of the film in which she starred with Laurence Olivier, *The Prince and the Showgirl*.

"Although we cover an enormous range of stars the real stars are the photographs," he said. "This sale covers the work of a lot of very famous people going back to

Clarence Sinclair Bull, head of the stills department at MGM who virtually invented celebrity photography as we know it today."

Bull was at MGM for 40 years. He was famed for his ethereal studies of Greta Garbo, done with the aid of candles and kerosene lamps and Mr Frankel has several examples from Lea Berkeley, who worked with Bull for seven years. Among many others, he also photographed Clark Gable and Leslie Caron.

One of Bull's trainees was George Hurrell, whose classy work was summed up by *Esquire* in a jazzy description typical of 1936: "A Hurrell portrait is to the publicity list what a Rolls-Royce is to a roller skate." He died only recently and the sale includes his portraits of Marlene Dietrich, Gary Cooper, Loretta Young and Tyrone Power.

Among the surprises is a rare semi-nude study of the unknown model Harlean Carpenter, then only aged 18, pictured as a wood nymph by Edwin Bower Hesser, the freelance who always photographed the stars outdoors and away from a studio setting.

Two years later both name and image were quite different. Harlean had become Jean Harlow and the wood nymph was transformed to a strutting brassy blonde of the archetypal Hollywood style.

Jewellery belonging to the late Diana Dors is expected to make up to £10,000 at Sotheby's in London on October 8.

A collection of 13 pieces sent for sale by her trustees includes an 18-carat gold, emerald, onyx and diamond bangle by Kuchinsky estimated at £4,000-£6,000.

THE TIMES

Lives Remembered

Excitement... intrigue... eccentricity... All elements of a fascinating new book, 'Lives Remembered' culled from The Times obituaries columns of 1991. Tyrants rub shoulders with pop stars, royalty with politicians, in an extraordinary parade of the great, the good and the villainous.



This is a book which will appeal to those looking for a reference work of some of this century's notable players, as well as to those looking for fascinating and absorbing reading. Lives Remembered is available from bookshops, or direct from the publishers, Blewbury Press, 10 Station Road, Pangbourne, Berks RG8 7AN at the special price of £9.95 (hardback).

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SEPT 19 ON THIS DAY 1932

Bottles, stones, bricks and lumps of lead were some of the missiles hurled at the police during unemployment disturbances in the north-west of England sixty years ago.

BIRKENHEAD RIOT

Unemployment disturbances which began at Birkenhead earlier in the week culminated this week-end in grave conflicts with the police. Rioting began at 9 o'clock on Saturday night and went on until 5 o'clock this morning.

During what amounted to a series of pitched battles between the mob and the police nine officers, including one from Liverpool, and seven other persons were injured and taken to hospital, and six men were arrested. Several of the injured, including some of the constables, are still in hospital. The number of arrests up to date in connexion with these disturbances is 19, of whom 13, including one of the principal leaders of the Communists, have been remanded in custody until Friday.

On Saturday night large crowds of men and women marched up and down Price Street smashing windows of shops and throwing stones at the police. Missiles were also flung at private motor-cars, the owners of which had driven through the locality without knowing of its disturbed state. A Communist meeting was stopped by the police, and those taking part in it then went to another part of the borough and began rioting. Their numbers grew rapidly, and a solid body of at least 400 people marched along through the streets. The police tried to break up the mob, but were met with a rain of bottles, bricks, stones, lumps of lead, hammer-heads, and other missiles. One man was seen with a hammer and cold chisel smashing up a railing round a school play-

ground and the iron spikes were used by the rioters in their attacks on the police and serious wounds were inflicted.

Wherever the police were seen sweeping up a street the rioters disappeared into houses, from the windows of which women threw all kinds of missiles. At one time the police were hemmed in by two crowds, approaching from opposite directions, and the constables had to use their batons. It was in this struggle that the officers suffered chiefly. The fights spread into the side streets, and at one point a wall was partially torn down to provide ammunition for the rioters.

Over a hundred Birkenhead police were on duty, and they were reinforced by 90 men from the Liverpool police. In the Price Street area 14 shops were damaged and rifled, and the windows of many houses were shattered. The ground-floor windows of a public house were broken, and the mob helped themselves to liquor. In one street the manhole cover of a sewer was lifted and a wire rope was stretched across the street. A number of police fell over this in their pursuit of the mob, and one constable lay wounded in the gutter for nearly an hour before he was rescued by his comrades. Even ambulances were attacked, and one of the motor-ambulances conveying police reinforcements had all its windows broken. Special attention was paid to the police vans, which had to run the gauntlet of showers of stones and pieces of metal.

This afternoon, comparative quietness having been restored, carpenters were active in boarding up damaged shop premises and windows of houses. The Mayor of Birkenhead has issued an appeal to all law-abiding citizens to refrain from associating themselves with the rioters and thus prevent more extreme measures being taken.

Seven men arrested for having, it was alleged, taken part in a riotous outbreak in Birkenhead on Thursday were brought before the local magistrates on Saturday and remanded till next Friday.

Major turns his fire on Bonn for ERM chaos

Continued from page 1
set monetary policy in this country to meet our objectives," he said. "It will be a British economic policy and a British monetary policy."

Treasury sources later dampened hopes of substantial reductions and dismissed suggestions that interest rates could soon fall to 6 per cent.

Mr Lamont's remarks, and the marked change of tone in the government's rhetoric on Europe, was raising concern among the pro-European wing last night over the development of a two-speed Europe.

Michael Heseltine, the President of the Board of Trade, delivered a warning about the dangers of stand-

ing back from Maastricht. "People have not thought through the implications of what would happen to inward investment. If it was perceived that we were going back to a slow stream of Europe, do you think all this Japanese business would be investing here on the present scale?"

Mr Major said that the European currency system had to be run "in the interest of all the countries of Europe and not veered towards national interest in any individual country. We must examine that before we can consider returning."

The prime minister said he would not ask the House of Commons to ratify the Maastricht treaty on European union unless France accepts it in tomorrow's vote and until Denmark, which rejected it in a referendum, finds a way of implementing it.

In Rome, an Italian foreign ministry spokesman said that European Community foreign ministers will meet on Monday in New York to discuss the outcome of the French vote. The ministers had planned to be in New York for the general assembly of the United Nations.

Franco Reviglio, the Italian budget minister, said in Rome yesterday that Europe's currency crisis might force EC countries to abandon the idea of economic unity, whatever the result of the French poll. He said that the events of the past week showed a "two-speed Europe" was already a fact and some EC partners were going to need more time to get their economies into shape.

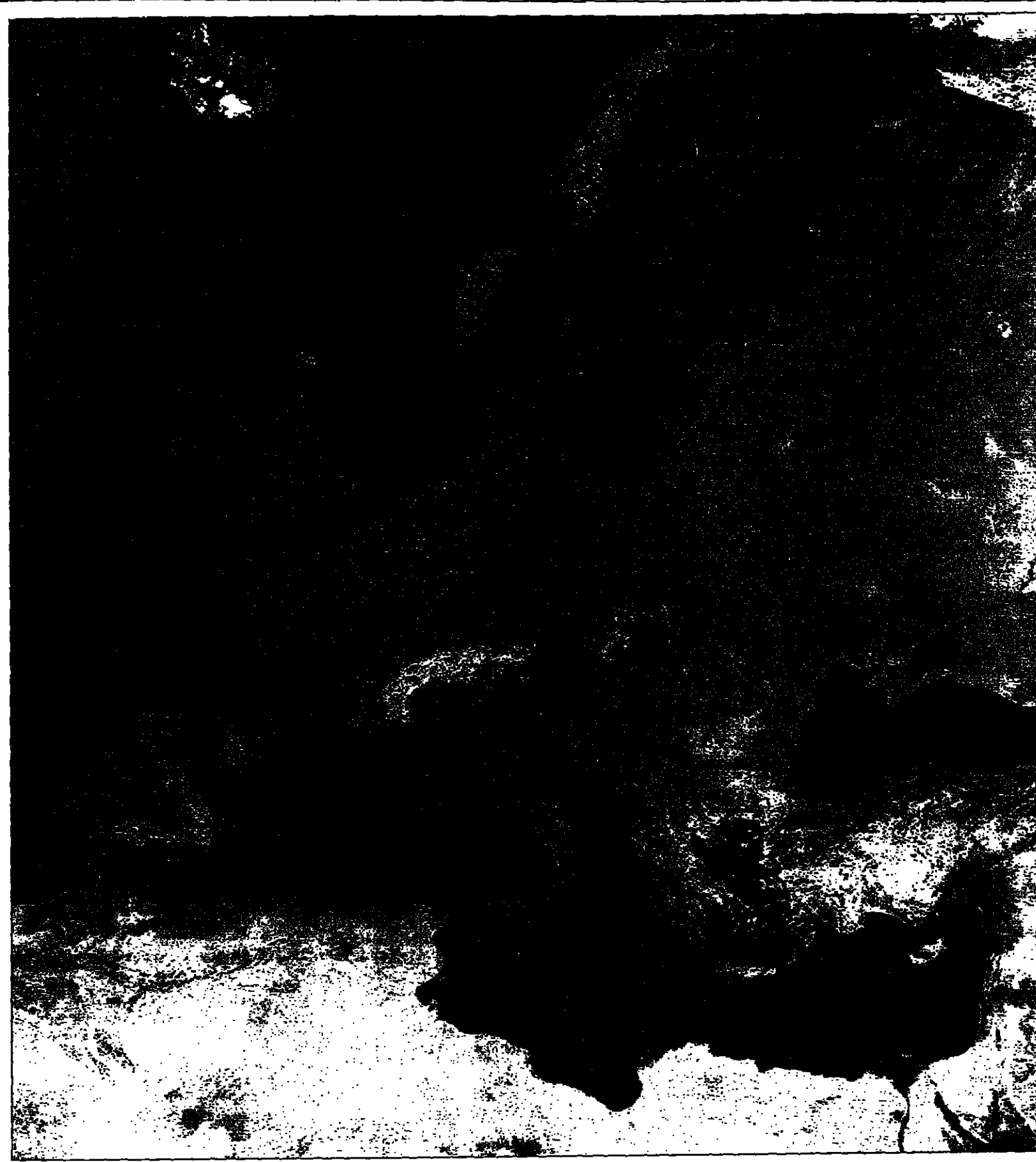
Currency crisis, pages 2-3
French poll, pages 4-5
Charles Bremner, page 14
Leading article and letters, page 15
Treaty reports, pages 4, 5

ERM cracks widen, page 19

French polls point to 'yes' result

Continued from page 1
ed by the "three musketeers", Philippe Séguin, Charles Pasqua and Philippe de Villiers, the mainstream right-wing politicians who have marshalled the forces on the side of a "no" vote. They accused M Bérégovoy of "taking the franc hostage in order to steal a 'no' victory from the French people."

They added: "By suggesting that prospects of a 'no' vote are the cause of the monetary crisis and announcing that our currency would be devalued in this case, Bérégovoy is falsifying the truth, misleading the French and playing against France's interests." M Pasqua said that the government had "either deliberately, or through incompetence, created the conditions of monetary disorder".



Europe from above it all

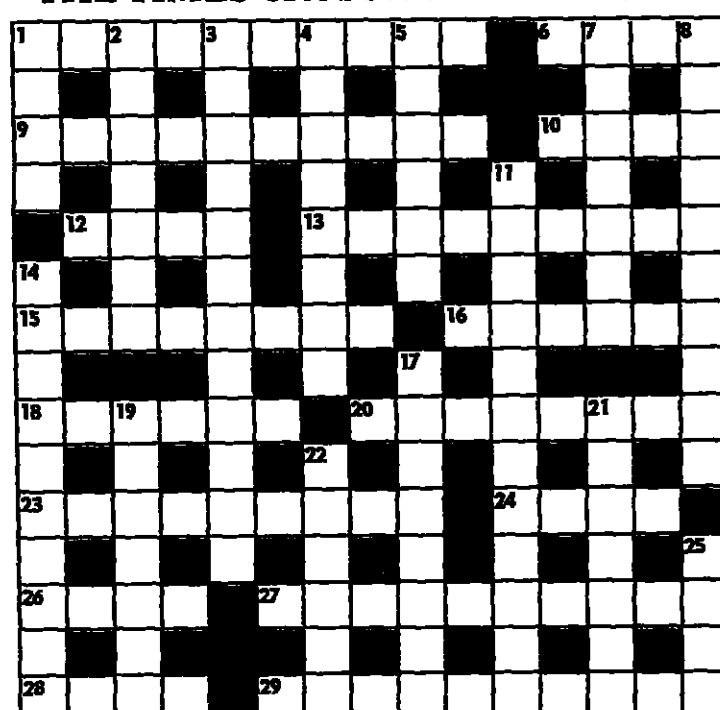
By DANIEL JOHNSON

POLITICS is invisible *sub specie aeternitatis*, under the aspect of eternity. A cloud-free mosaic composed by weather satellite sensors shows Europe rising like some gorgeous coral reef from the ocean's primordial, peaceful and whole. Frontiers and feuds, passions and prejudices, treaties and referendums seem trivial when contemplated from a celestial perspective: "God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."

Yet the Europe in which Europeans live is not the single geopolitical or cultural entity beloved of visionaries, from its Graeco-Roman origins, through medieval Christendom to the secular ideologies of the past two centuries. Real, everyday Europe is a plurality of historical peoples. They live in cities and regions to which they are attached, are distinguishable by their accents and dialects, marry and worship with their own kind, make common cause for a few purposes but for the most part pursue their own interests.

A sensor which could show not temperature but temperament might this week have shown a colourful but fissiparous Europe. The picture would alter as rapidly and often as the currency markets, but one might glimpse offshore islands glowing white with anxiety; the golden stars of the continental capitals darkening in the holes of reorientation; France shimmering in red, white and blue on the eve of her day of reckoning.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,028



ACROSS
1 Singer appearing before instrumentalist (10).
6 Tropical fruit without individual leaves (4).
9 Naval person shocking Spencer, perhaps (10).
10 Almost perfect plan (4).
12 It's said to put obstacles in the way of an alliance (4).
13 Very poor, that rider (5-4).
15 Pleased to have taken a drink (8).
16 Royal gold for 9 (6).
18 The smallest towels can get misplaced (6).
20 Initiate contact away from work (5,3).
23 New canoe, sent from China (9).
24 Turned back, for example, to catch at the wicket (4).
26 Money handed over outside state control (10).
28 King in end becomes calamitous (4).
29 Guards deep-sea swimmers (10).

DOWN
1 Innocent young lady in America (4).
2 Wretched chap admits misgiving, not having married (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,022
SOLUTION TO PUZZLE NO 19,022
TOLERATE UNROBE
O L E A N A E
P H O S C R I B E D N I G H
P N I C E S O
I N T O T H E B A R G A I N
N A A N L C I
G A M P L E D S I C K F A Y
E M N A
U P L I S H L A Y E T T E
D M E A A F
A D I E W A D M I R A B L E
N C U L D T U L R
C H I N A T O W N N A I V E
E N N A N A U S N
N I G H T D R O P S H O T

Prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

RIATA
A fast Mexican dance
ALEXON
A savoury rice dish
EBENEZER
A school chaplain
A memorial stone
An obsequy
ROQUE
A magical Persian bird
A form of croquet
Hard neogot
DROLE
Social security payment
The crown of a pediment
A wild dog

Answers on page 16

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London 701
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Derby, Leicestershire & Lincoln 703
Devon & Cornwall 704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset 705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxon 706
Bedfordshire & Essex 707
Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambs 708
West Midlands 709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester 710
Central Midlands 711
East Midlands 712
Lincoln & South Lincoln 713
Derby & Leicestershire 714
Gwynedd & Clwyd 715
North Wales 716
W & S Wales & Dees 717
N & S Wales 718
Cumbria & Lake District 719
S W Scotland 720
Central Scotland 721
Edinburgh, Lothian & Borders 722
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Grampian & E Highlands 724
N W Scotland 725
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M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23 734
M-ways/roads M23-M4 735
M25 London Orbital only 736

National 737
National motorways 738
West Country 739
Wales 740
Midlands 741
East Anglia 742
North West England 743
South West England 744
Scotland 745
Northern Ireland 746

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Lighting-up times
TODAY
London 7.26 pm to 6.44 am
Bristol 7.15 pm to 6.33 am
Edinburgh 7.15 pm to 6.34 am
Manchester 7.15 pm to 6.34 am
Penzance 7.27 pm to 6.45 am
TOMORROW
London 7.26 pm to 6.44 am
Bristol 7.15 pm to 6.33 am
Edinburgh 7.15 pm to 6.34 am
Manchester 7.15 pm to 6.34 am
Penzance 7.27 pm to 6.45 am

Concise Crossword, page 16
Weekend Times section

The Fifteenth Book of The Times Crosswords published by Times Books, 77-85, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JB, is now on sale at bookshops, price £3.50.

WEATHER

Much of the country will have a dry and bright morning, but eastern England and Scotland will be rather cloudy with outbreaks of rain. Eastern England will be brighter during the morning, but eastern Scotland will remain dull. Rain in Northern Ireland and western Scotland will spread southeast during the day reaching Wales and much of northern and western England by midnight. Brighter showery conditions will reach Northern Ireland and western Scotland later. Outlook: remaining unsettled with rain.

Forecast for the day

MONDAY: 1-4th; 5-7th; 8-10th; 11-13th; 14-16th; 17-19th; 20-22nd; 23-25th; 26-28th; 29-31st

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	18	10	10	0.0
Edinburgh	15	10	10	0.0
Belfast	15	10	10	0.0
Cardiff	15	10	10	0.0
Birmingham	18	10	10	0.0
Manchester	18	10	10	0.0
Sheffield	18	10	10	0.0
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WEEKEND MONEY

Profile

James Hann, the chairman of Scottish Nuclear, is an enigma, even to his own family. To a stranger, he appears relaxed and confident. But his brother says he has great difficulty in relaxing and rarely shows his true feelings to anybody. He dislikes pubs, admits to having few friends, and is happiest when on his boat in Scotland. Page 21



Family saver

A new savings scheme by TSB allows family members to combine the totals of their separate accounts to attract higher interest rates. Under 16s are expected to benefit most. Page 24

Tax deadline

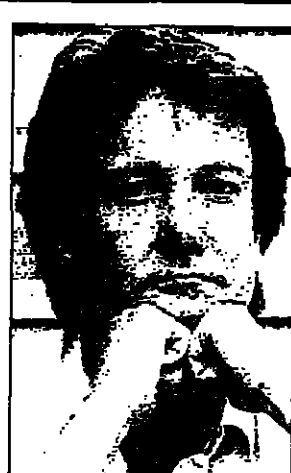
Taxpayers have six weeks to submit their tax returns for 1991-2. Failure to meet the October deadline could result in penalties. The Consumers' Association has some advice. Page 26

INFLATION



Poor returns

Lionel Paston-Cooper made a profit of less than £400 on the £4,140 he ploughed into a ten-year savings plan run by City of Westminster Assurance. The company says the bad return was largely due to its decision to invest heavily in smaller companies, a category that has performed particularly badly in the recession. A spokesman rejected suggestions that investing in smaller companies was speculative, but admitted it was high risk. Mr Paston-Cooper was unlucky, he added. Page 24



Sold out

Anxious borrowers clamoured for fixed-rate mortgages on Wednesday as lending rates soared. Even Abbey National, which had launched one that morning, sold out. Page 23

Oil slick

The meeting of the OPEC countries ended in disarray as Ecuador asked to leave the oil-producers' cartel while Iran refused to fall in line with an agreement to maintain production. Page 20



Steaming ahead

Grand Central Railway, the privately-owned steam company, is planning a £2m share issue. Supporters are being contacted this month; the public offer for sale is in November. Page 25

Hopes of base rate cut send shares soaring

By MICHAEL CLARK AND COLIN NARBROUGH

THE stock market caught the whiff of cheaper money yesterday, soaring 83.1 points to 2,567.0 and adding £17 billion to share values as speculation intensified that further cuts in interest rates are on the cards.

Brokers say the equity market has undergone a fundamental change in sentiment this week, with the government apparently now committed to using cheaper money to kick-start the economy. The rise on the week is almost 200 points, or 8.2 per cent, since the devaluation of sterling and the apparent U-turn in government economic policy.

Turnover was again high, with 1.3 billion shares changing hands. But stock shortages gave price movements an exaggerated appearance. Brokers complained that the bulk of business was conducted between market-makers as they struggled to shut down existing short positions before the two-week trading account drew to a close.

Strong signals from John Major and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that Britain's re-entry to the exchange-rate mechanism was some way off, reinforced City hopes of a cut in base rates next week and pushed the pound to another record low against the mark.

After shedding two pence overnight from Thursday's DM2.6323, London close, sterling clawed its way back to above DM2.6300 by late morning, only to fall back to DM2.6100 at the close, down

almost 24 pfennigs from its previous close. This took the pound, which showed no sign of bottoming out, to a record low and represented a fall of more than 16 pfennigs from the absolute lower limit in the exchange-rate mechanism, which the government gave up trying to defend on Wednesday.

Against the advancing dollar, which climbed back over DM1.50, the pound fell more than three cents to \$1.7435 in London. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped 0.9 to 85.5.

In the foreign exchange market, dealers watching sterling futures were anticipating a cut of up to 2 percentage points in base rates in the near future. On Thursday, base rates were returned to 10 per cent after the previous day's aggressive five-point hike in vain defence of sterling's ERM parity. Comments from some leading politicians suggested a 6 per cent base rate before long.

The futures market's December short-sterling contract pointed to a base rate of about 8.5 per cent before year-end, while in the money markets the benchmark three-month interbank rate was signalling 9.25 per cent. Shorter rates were, however, restrained by expectations of tight credit conditions. The Bank of England sought to ease pressure on day-to-day money by cancelling its regular Friday treasury bill tender.

Expectations meanwhile mounted across Europe for a

wide-reaching currency realignment, possibly accompanied by a cut in German interest rates, after the French referendum on Sunday.

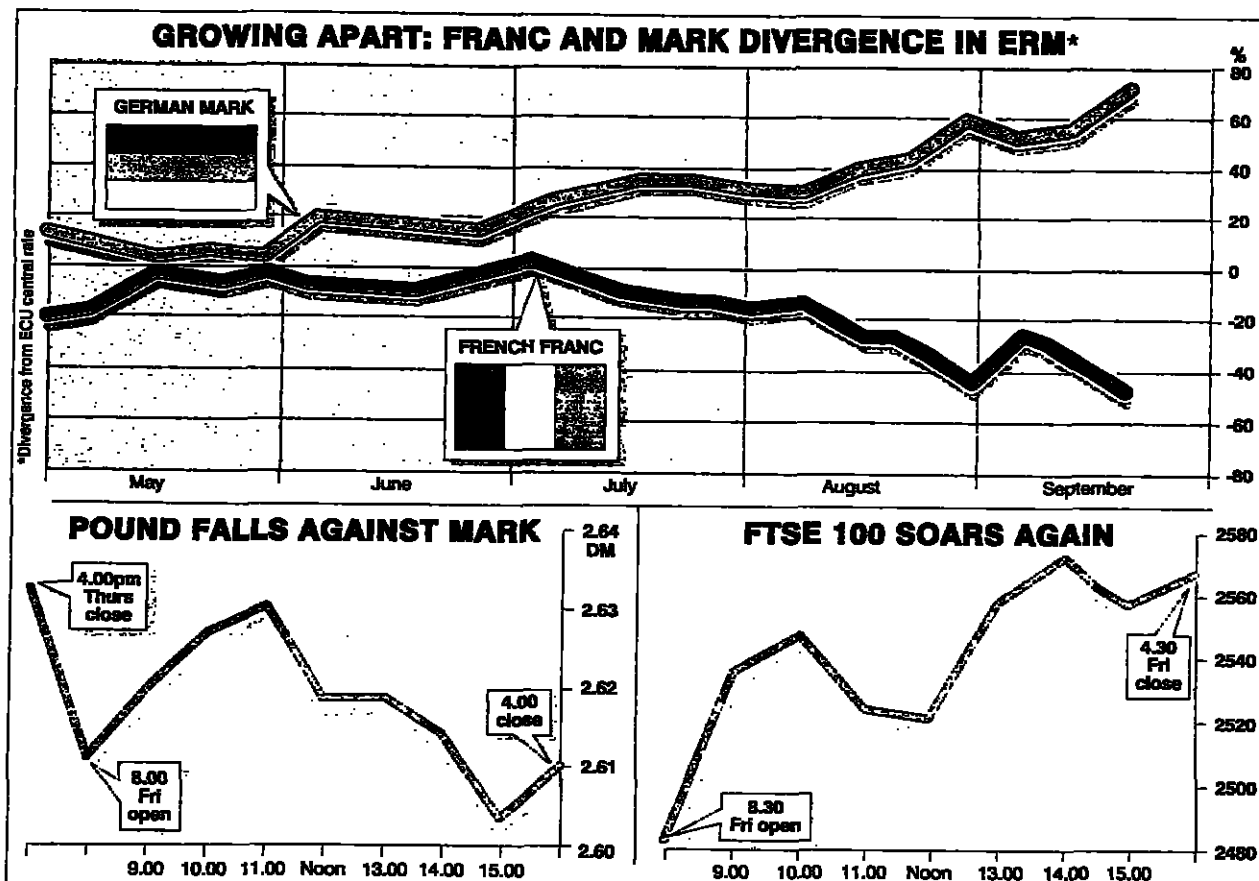
As finance ministers and central bankers gathered in Washington for the World Bank and International Monetary Fund meetings, America came out strongly in favour of lower German interest rates, which the Bush administration considers crucial to world growth and restoring order in the currency markets.

David Mulford, the treasury under-secretary, predicted the Germans would be under pressure from fellow members in the Group of Seven.

Nicholas Brady, the American treasury secretary, said lower European interest rates were "inevitable" if the European economies were to begin to expand again. America has long advocated that G7 economic policy should focus on growth more than inflation.

Further evidence that the Bank of England is poised to cut interest rates came to light on the gilt market with the issue of another £500 million of Treasury indexed 4½ per cent 1998 at par. Brokers reckon the stock will prove attractive to investors if base rates are cut next week. Many will see it as a possible hedge against a rise in inflation after the pound's devaluation.

Rate cut hopes, page 1
Currency crisis, pages 2 and 3
French vote, pages 4 and 5
Stock market, page 22



ERM cracks widen as core strengthens

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

THE exchange-rate mechanism remained at breaking point in the run-up to tomorrow's French referendum on the treaty of Maastricht, whose outcome may decide the fate of 13 years of European monetary co-operation.

The system continued to be polarised into a strong core of European currencies around the mark and a weak fringe. This was manifested by the appreciation of the mark, the guilders and the Belgian franc, and the continued weakness of the other currencies left in the system. The French franc was one of the weakest, trading near its ERM floor, despite massive intervention by the Banque de France. Short-term French interest rates rose to

more than 20 per cent in support of the currency, which financial markets treat as a candidate for devaluation in the event of a No vote. The Bundesbank, however, lent much greater support to the franc yesterday than it had to sterling earlier this week when Hans Tietmeyer, vice-president, said the French currency should not be devalued.

The cracks in the rumpled ERM reflect expectations of yet another currency realignment, possibly as early as Sunday night, depending on the outcome of the vote. A realignment is regarded as certain in the event of a French No. A clear Yes vote would probably calm the markets and may even obviate the need

for a realignment. A narrow majority in favour could herald more uncertainty.

European finance ministers are in Washington for the International Monetary Fund meeting, from where they may announce the third ERM realignment in a week, after the 7 per cent devaluation of the lira last Sunday, the suspension of sterling and the lira, and the 5 per cent devaluation of the peseta.

The franc yesterday traded at the bottom of its range at Fr3.4225 against the mark. The Irish punt, another devaluation candidate, despite pledges to the contrary by the Irish government, traded near its floor of Ir£2.6525. The Danish crown also traded at

its bottom range.

The mark meanwhile threatened to rise through its ERM ceiling. The mark's divergence indicator, which shows the extent to which an ERM currency nears its maximum spread against its central rate, was 71 per cent, just below the 75 per cent level where a currency is deemed to be out of line.

Jürgen Möllemann, German economics minister, raised the stakes in the litany of pre-referendum warnings by saying the ERM's survival would depend on the outcome of the vote. Like most observers in Germany, Herr Möllemann expects a Yes vote.

Leading article, page 15

THE POUND

US dollar 1.7435 (-0.0315)
German mark 2.6100 (-0.0223)
Exchange index 85.5 (-0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1885.2 (+70.0)
FT-SE 100 2567.0 (+83.1)
New York Dow Jones 3318.40 (+2.70)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge 18166.80 (+50.28)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base, 10%
3-month interbank 9½-9¾%
3-month eligible bills 9½-9¾%
US Prime Rate 6%
Federal Funds 3%
3-month Treasury Bills 2.89-2.87%
30-year bonds 90½-98½

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £ \$1.7430
DM \$1.7430
DM \$1.7430
FF \$1.7430
Yen \$1.7430
ECU \$1.7430
SDR \$1.7430
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London: AM \$348.00 PM \$347.20
Close \$350.00-350.50
COMEX 201-201.50
New York: COMEX \$352.25-352.75

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.35/bbl (\$20.45)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 133.9 August 1987 = 100
* Denotes midday trading price

Bosses expect output to slump further

By PATRICIA TEHAN

BRITAIN'S bosses expect manufacturing output to slump even further before the year-end. Their order books are well below normal and expectations of being able to raise prices are at their lowest level for 33 years.

Before this week's dramatic events on the foreign exchange markets, the CBI found that industrial leaders had the lowest expectations of manufacturing output since May last year.

According to the CBI's latest industrial trends survey, only 15 per cent of companies expect to increase their output in the next four months, while 29 per cent believe their output will fall.

The difference between the two, which measures the trend, gives a negative 14 per cent, compared with a negative 12 per cent in August and a positive 1 per cent in September last year.

The survey demonstrates the tough task facing Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, as he attempts to revive the economy and restore confidence after sterling's withdrawal from the



Sentance: warning note

tive 12 per cent in August and a positive 1 per cent in September last year.

The survey demonstrates the tough task facing Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, as he attempts to revive the economy and restore confidence after sterling's withdrawal from the

exchange-rate mechanism. The survey was carried out between August 28 and September 16. It covered 1,439 companies in 50 industries, which together are responsible for half UK manufacturing employment. Most of the responses were received before the currency crisis.

Andrew Sentance, the CBI's economics director, said last week's events may result in lower interest rates and may improve British companies' ability to compete with overseas rivals, bringing about an increase in export orders which could help bring forward recovery. But he added: "There could still be turmoil and uncertainty."

The survey shows new orders well below their normal levels and little changed from August. Sixty one per cent of companies say their order books are below normal com-

pared with only 8 per cent that say they are higher than usual. Demand is now at its weakest level since January, with the balance of firms reporting lower order books, slipping from 52 per cent in August to 53 per cent. There is little joy either from overseas customers. Export demand is weak, with 44 per cent of firms reporting that their export order books are lower than normal and only 11 per cent saying they are unchanged.

The recession continues to force prices down. More firms are cutting prices at the factory gate than are raising them. Manufacturers' hopes of being able to increase their prices are at their weakest level since 1959. Over the next four months, 19 per cent of companies say they are likely to cut average prices for domestic orders and only 8 per cent hope to be able to raise them.

Irish put the squeeze on punters

By JON ASHWORTH

THE battle of the currency markets shifted to Dublin yesterday as central bankers fought tooth and nail to prevent a run on the punt. The Irish solution? Raise interest rates to 1,000 per cent... 27,000 per cent... 90,000 per cent.

Speculation of an astonishing rise in overnight money market rates caused pandemonium on dealing floors as traders struggled to keep up with events on world markets. The rumours turned out to be untrue — the top figure was 1,000 per cent — but the results were spectacular. By late yesterday, the punt was worth less than the Irish punt, changing hands at 99 Irish pence to be precise.

The Irish, in their canny way, have beaten Norman Lamont at his own game. The



Chancellor had taken the view that a 5 per cent rise in interest rates would be enough to prop up the punt. He was wrong. As currency speculators seized on the punt, Irish authorities took the Lamont formula and multiplied it thousands of times, or so it seemed. If Sweden could raise overnight rates to 500 per cent, the Emerald Isle could go one better.

So dealers were not entirely surprised when rumours of

enormous rates began surfacing yesterday morning. Word from Frankfurt was that rates had shot up to 27,000 per cent. Callers from London spoke of 90,000 per cent.

The truth was slightly less spectacular. Domestic Irish rates climbed no higher than 50 per cent and overnight rates in the offshore Euro-Irish market peaked at a mere 1,000 per cent. The end left Ireland bloodied but victor-

ious. On Thursday, as the punt crashed to its floor in the ERM against the mark, the central bank in Dublin pumped Ir£1 billion, a third of its foreign exchange reserves, into the markets to shore up the price. This intervention, with talk of huge overnight rates, helped reverse the tide. Soothing words from Albert Reynolds, the prime minister, helped restore calm and the punt was soon back in its usual range.

Dealers will not forget the past few days in a hurry. "It was the most hectic week I have seen in 20 years in the market," said Nicky Hunt, head treasurer at the Bank of Ireland in London. "The punt is worth more than the pound for the first time in more than a decade and for one of the first times in history."

Letters, page 15

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Disunity in Opec fails to move the price of oil

By GEORGE SIVELL

THE Opec oil cartel, which held the world to ransom in the seventies, sank into disunity yesterday as tiny Ecuador said that it wanted to leave and Iran that it wanted to raise production in defiance of an agreement this week to maintain output for the fourth quarter of the year.

Oil prices barely moved, however. Tensions surfaced as delegates left Opec's September meeting, in Geneva, which had agreed to hold production at current levels of around 24.2 million barrels a day. North Sea Brent oil slipped 10 cents to \$20.40 yesterday. Opec avoided assigning individual quotas to members by saying that all production, apart from Kuwait's, would count in the ceiling. Kuwait is to be allowed to increase production as it recovers from the Iraqi invasion.

Ecuador, which has debts of \$13 billion and 50 per cent inflation, would like to double oil production from its present 300,000 barrels a day limit, a privilege for which it pays \$4 million in fees and travel costs. Ecuador is expected to remain a member until the November Opec meeting, and then to seek "associate" status, which would carry no fees.

Indonesia, Nigeria and Venezuela have in the past

debated whether to stay in Opec, which was founded in 1960 in Baghdad, to help developing producers get a higher price for oil.

Discontent within Opec has grown since the heady days of 1973, when the cartel managed to quadruple prices charged to the West in the wake of the Arab oil embargo during the Arab-Israeli war. But the organisation survived the war between two key members, Iran and Iraq, during the eighties. Iraq's oil has been embargoed by the UN since the invasion of Kuwait, in August 1990, but Opec knows it must make provision for Iraq's ultimate return to the markets.

Opec's agreement failed to appease Iran, which wanted a squeeze on supply. Saudi Arabia — which, with 8.3 million barrels a day, is Opec's biggest producer — would not agree to that.

Saudi Arabia said it would not mind a higher price if oil could maintain its long-term share of the energy market. Saudi Arabia needs that if long-term demand for its huge reserves is to be guaranteed. But smaller members, such as Ecuador, need oil income now and would prefer higher production or higher prices.

Iran said it expected production to rise to 4.5 million barrels a day from its present 4 million barrels. Iranian officials said Opec had missed a chance to achieve a price of \$21 a barrel and was plainly not serious about increasing prices. But Iran indicated it would not disrupt oil markets.

Kuwait said production would reach 1.5 million barrels a day by the end of 1992. This was its Opec quota before the Iraqi invasion. Kuwait had capacity to pump 2.5 million barrels of oil a day before the invasion.

Russia confirmed that it was doubling oil prices, to 4,000 roubles a tonne, which at present rates of exchange is equivalent to \$20. The West pays this price for one barrel of oil — there are more than seven barrels in a tonne.



Looking ahead: Jack Strowger, chairman of Hornby, who says the company's order intake is satisfactory

Hornby sees first-half profits plunge

By JON ASHWORTH

HORNBY, the toy, hobby and sports boat manufacturer that makes toy train sets and Scalextric model racing cars, saw profits dive in the first half of the year as a result of weaker margins and higher borrowings.

Pre-tax profits fell from £541,000 to £158,000 in the

six months to end-June on turnover of £11.5 million (£10.3 million). Operating profits more than halved to £216,000 (£476,000). Earnings per share were 1.2p (4.2p). Hornby does not pay an interim dividend.

Jack Strowger, chairman, said: "Despite the recession,

our order intake is very satisfactory and sales continue to be ahead of the same period last year."

Demand for Hornby model trains and Scalextric sets, which together account for about 60 per cent of sales, remains strong. There has been a good level of interest in

Cassy, a doll launched earlier in the year, and a new video game, Game Genie, is selling well. Sales of Fletcher sports boats are also holding up.

Customers are placing orders later in the year in a bid to avoid over-stocking, but Hornby is hoping for a good Christmas to carry it through.

Profits blow to Liberty shares

By OUR CITY STAFF

SHARES in Liberty, the fashion retailer and wholesaler, fell 10p to 435p against a rising market yesterday on news of a profits slump.

Pre-tax profits fell from £1.65 million to £648,000 in the six months to August 1 on turnover of £36.4 million (£38.1 million).

Earnings per share slipped to 0.46p (5.13p) and the company has dipped into reserves to hold the interim

dividend at 1.85p. Losses on retailing, including sales from the famous Regent Street store, doubled from £564,000 to £1.1 million. Operating profits on converting and wholesaling of Liberty printed products fell to £869,000 (£1.8 million).

John Pugh, finance director, said the Regent Street store had seen a slight rise in sales. "We've seen a downturn of about 6 per cent in retailing,

more in the provinces than in London." Liberty has 14 regional shops.

Liberty's share price has fallen by nearly a third since June when Brian Myerson, the South African stakeholder, failed to achieve a boardroom shake-up.

Mr Myerson, whose Concerto Capital trading company holds 15.5 per cent of Liberty, said the results were "very disappointing".

CU stake sold by Sun Alliance

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT
FINANCIAL EDITOR

SUN Alliance, Britain's biggest composite insurance group, sold nearly all its 14.4 per cent shareholding in rival Commercial Union yesterday. The sale comes three years after the stake was bought in what was then assumed to be a strategic move.

Smith New Court, the securities group, placed 60 million of Sun Alliance's 63 million shares among institutional investors, after what appeared to be a failed attempt to do so on Tuesday.

The shares were sold at 475p, only 10p per share above the price Sun Alliance originally paid for most of its holding. It said the proceeds of about £280 million would be used to cut bank borrowings and reinvest. CU said: "We are generally well pleased that the shares have been widely spread." Its shares were unchanged at 489p, while Sun Alliance gained 10p to 273p. The sale appears to end chances of a merger.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Profits warning sends Allen shares tumbling

SHARES in Allen fell 20p to 57p after the construction company issued a profits warning. Donald Greenhalgh, chairman and managing director, said interim profits would be "materially" lower than last year's £2.01 million pre-tax, itself down 21 per cent on 1990 interims. The board promised to hold the interim dividend at 1.65p a share.

Mr Greenhalgh said: "I believe the events of this week, with the move to a floating exchange rate, the reinstatement of a 10 per cent base rate and the likelihood of further interest rate reductions, will enable the UK economy to recover in the coming months and this will help the construction and housebuilding sectors." Directors believe the group's landbank is conservatively valued and the balance sheet is strong, with gearing below 50 per cent. Interims will be announced on November 23.

Sheffield rises 30%

SHEFFIELD Insulations, a supplier of insulation products and services, beat depressed conditions in the building sector to raise interim profits on static turnover. But the interim dividend is held at 1.8p a share after a warning that trading is expected to remain difficult this year and next. In the six months to end-June, pre-tax profits rose to £1.3 million (£1 million) and earnings to 3.3p (2.8p) a share. Sales were unchanged at £66.8 million but operating profits reached £1.43 million (£1.2 million) after action to improve productivity.

Acsis trims losses

ACSIS, the nursing recruitment and sales promotion group, saw pre-tax losses narrow from £1.3 million to £285,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover was down at £8.6 million (£15.6 million) as a result of closures and disposals, which contributed to an extraordinary charge of £2.3 million in the first half of last year. The loss per share was 0.04p against a loss of 0.7p. There is no dividend (nil). The results were helped by an exchange gain of £172,000 on foreign currency borrowings, compared with a loss of £111,000.

Berry group in black

TONY BERRY, former Blue Arrow chairman, has completed his restructuring at Business Technology Group and restored it to profitability. The first half of 1992 yielded pre-tax profits of £212,000 against a loss of £154,000 last time. During the period the group sold its remaining peripheral businesses and is now focused on the sale and servicing of copying machines and other office equipment. This has been strengthened by acquisitions in the Midlands and Sheffield. Earnings are 0.75p a share but there is no dividend.

Bostrom expands

BOSTROM, the vehicle seating and specialist engineering group, is buying Palmer & Shelley, a presswork company based in Birmingham, for £900,000. It intends to fund the acquisition partly through a £350,000 placing led by Kleinwort Benson. Palmer & Shelley was the subject of a management buyout from Ford in October, 1991. The company will be absorbed into Bostrom's Kab Pressings Division. Bostrom said that the recession had prevented any broadly based increase in demand for its products.

P-E International slides

P-E International, the management and computing group that includes David Bellamy's environmental consultancy among its subsidiaries, is halving its interim dividend to 1p a share after a slump in pre-tax profits to £514,000 (£1.83 million) in the six months to end-June, despite slightly higher fees of £35.5 million (£33.6 million). Net interest costs rose to £322,000 (£177,000). There was an extraordinary debit of £523,000. Earnings plunge to 1.5p a share, against 6.7p a share last time. The shares eased 2p to 52p.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

What does it all mean...?

After a momentous week, The Sunday Times analyses and explains what the exchange rate and interest rate upheavals mean for business, small entrepreneurs, savers, homeowners and pensioners

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

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Bank of Ireland
Area Office, 36-40 High Street, Slough, Berkshire SL1 1EL

Wharfedale to buy Mission

By PHILIP PANGALOS

WHARFEDALE is raising £5 million via a placing and open offer to help boost its presence in the specialist audio industry worldwide with the purchase of Mission, another leading British loudspeaker maker.

Most of the proceeds of the placing, on a 12-for-11 basis at 10.5p per share, will be used to fund the acquisition of Centralforce Holdings, which owns and operates Mission and specialises in amplifiers

and compact disc players, sold under the Mission and Cyrus brand names.

Wharfedale is paying £4.07 million in cash and shares, with an issue of 10 million warrants, each to subscribe for one ordinary share at 10p each. Of the placing proceeds, £3.07 million will go to the vendor, with £1.93 million to provide additional working capital for the enlarged group. Parag Azima, Centralforce

chief, is joining the board. Wharfedale, which will change its name to Verity Group, also unveiled pre-tax losses of £2.94 million in the year to end-June (£1.22 million loss). Turnover fell to £8.56 million (£11.3 million). Losses were exacerbated by £915,000 of exceptional reorganisation and rationalisation charges. The loss per share rises to 9.1p (7.9p loss). There is again no dividend.

TEMPUS

ERM exit tempts out the bulls

A TWO-DAY rise of almost 200 points in the FT-SE 100 index might suggest that all but the most nimble of investors have missed out again. But there should be little cause for despair. Although it is easy to be swept away by the kind of euphoria witnessed in equity markets over the past couple of days, reputations are being staked on the premise that share prices have embarked on a new bull phase.

If the government persists in pursuing its tight money policy, with high real interest rates, perhaps this gain is the most that can be expected in response to the withdrawal of sterling from the exchange-rate mechanism. But adherents to that view are growing fewer by the minute, and on any other basis the case for buying the market is stronger than it has been for years.

Looking 12 to 18 months ahead, as is the market's custom, the picture of unmitigated greyness has been injected with colour. There is every reason to believe that interest rates are coming down and will continue to come down for a long time to come, according to one equity strategist yesterday.

Whether base rates will have been cut to 6 per cent by next year's budget — the first of the two that have been promised — as some of the wilder speculation currently has it, or whether they are eased back a little more sedately, the message for in-



Waving encouragement: turmoil signals recovery

dustry seems clear. Recovery should begin here. Sterling's devaluation, meanwhile, will have two key benefits: boosting company profits — a 10 per cent devaluation is worth 6 per cent to industry, according to UBS Phillips & Drew — and removing the key obstacle to investment by overseas funds in the UK. Those who, a week ago, could not see the FT-SE above 2,500 in the foreseeable future, are now talking of 3,000 and more by the end of next year.

Leading the upsurge are interest-sensitive stocks and big overseas earners, which

have most to gain from the devaluation. Trevor Laugharne, of Kleinwort, believes fund management groups such as Henderson Administration and M&G, and merchant banks such as Hambros and SG Warburg, will benefit in a lively financial sector, while there will be some decent pickings among the smaller householders, with YJ Lovell attractive to the braver investor.

Among retailers that will benefit from lower interest rates are Kingfisher and Storehouse, while bargains are already being identified in the bombed-out leisure sec-

tor. Rank Organisation, with a particularly heavy debt burden, and Ladbroke will look increasingly attractive, as will some of the better-run, smaller companies, such as Resort Hotels.

Stocks with high overseas exposure are the safer choice, their improved fortunes depending on devaluation, which has happened, as opposed to lower interest rates, which are still awaited. UBS Phillips & Drew likes BAT Industries, SmithKline Beecham, Lasmio, ICI, Guinness, Inchcape and Tomkins, all of which earn 80 per cent or more of their profits in overseas markets.

Nick Knight, at Nomura, favours BTR, Tarmac and BICC and believes they should be financed by selling expensive defensive issues such as GEC, J Sainsbury and Yorkshire Water.

Companies such as Glaxo and Unilever feature on several buy lists, including that of Goldman Sachs, which also points to Willis Corroon, Allied Colloids and Cookson as slightly less obvious beneficiaries from the currency depreciation. For those wanting a flutter on the back of the Italian devaluation, Olivetti and Benetton are picked out.

In these conditions, formulating long-term investment plans is almost impossible, but probably not necessary. The important point about this market is to be in it — details can be worried about at a higher level.

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:			Argos	252p (+26p)
Abbey NI	302p (+14p)		Dixons Group	219p (+20p)
Barclays	346p (+10p)		Allied-Lyons	623p (+39p)
Hambros	236p (+22p)		Grand Met	455p (+23p)
Kleinwort Benson	261p (+20p)		JA Devenish	234p (+20p)
Lloyds	449p (+14p)		Greenalls Group	346p (+16p)
Standard Chart	439p (+11p)		SA Breweries	790p (+77p)
SG Warburg	475p (+25p)		Blue Circle	172p (+20p)
J Laing	148p (+14p)		FALL:	
Wilson Bowden	285p (+14p)		Guinness	524p (-10p)
Courtauld	475p (+29p)			
Rentokil	173p (+12p)			

Closing Prices Page 27

RECENT ISSUES

Birkby (100)	92	+2	TR Tech Units	1700	...
Broadgate Inv Trust (100)	95	...	Throg 1000 Smir Co Wts	11	...
Broadgate Warrants	33	...	Yorkshire TV Wts	13	...
Dartmoor Inv Trst Wts	12	+2			
Dwyer A	19	...			
Euro Smaller Co's	81	+1			
Euro Smaller Wts	19	...			
Finsbury Smir Co 0 Prf	148p	+1p			
Shirescot	495	...			

RIGHTS ISSUES

Bibby J N/P (115)	1	...
Embassy Property N/P (5)	1	...

BASE RATE

With effect from close of business on 17 September 1992 Base Rate has been decreased from 12% to 10% per annum.



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BUSINESS PROFILE: James Hann

Sea breezes mellow an angry young man

Carol Leonard finds the chairman of Scottish Nuclear is a changed man since going north of the border

James Hann, the chairman of Scottish Nuclear, one of Britain's few remaining nationalised industries, has a long, narrow face, a high forehead, thin lips and a deep voice. As he opens his mouth to speak you expect to hear either a gruff Glaswegian twang or the more clipped Edinburgh version, but he has neither. His accent is, instead, distinguished by its soft Hampshire burr.

Hann might live in Dunbartonshire, might speak about the quality of life in Scotland with the conviction of a native, but was born in Southampton, the eldest son of a local dairyman. "I'm the one that flew the coop," he says. "My brother and sister both stayed relatively close by." Hann's reason for "flying the coop" perhaps gives a clue to the forces which have driven him since. Forces which cause his own brother to admit he does not really know him. "You never quite know what he is thinking," says Harry Hann, a Devon farmer. "Sometimes the guard will drop and you get right inside but whether or not it is because of a slight embarrassment, the defence always goes up again quite quickly. It's very difficult to get him to relax."

Hann, meanwhile, is holding court in London's Athenaeum Hotel. He appears — curiously — relaxed, confident and in command. He obviously prides himself on being quick witted and his bright blue eyes add weight to his belief. Early on he checks his christian name and then uses it to punctuate much of his ensuing conversation. He is personable, easy to talk to, direct and, in contrast to Harry's well-founded assessment, strives to be as open and honest as memory allows. Hann, 59, has changed. The change, his brother believes, took place in the 1980s when Hann was managing director of Seaforth Maritime, which serviced the offshore oil and gas industry in Aberdeen. It was a position he held for 14 years and in 1977, he was awarded a CBE for services to the UK offshore industry. Whether that change was wrought by such

public recognition or the fact that Hann had finally, in his own eyes, proven his ability as a managing director, is not clear, but he is now a very different man. "He has definitely changed," claims Harry. "At first he was what I would call the original hard hitting businessman. He is still very firm in his convictions, but since Seaforth he seems to have been transformed. He is a lot quieter now, a lot more content with his life."

It is when Hann talks about his early life that the contrast becomes apparent. Ask him about his national service, in the Royal Artillery, and he will recount how he was "returned to regiment" half way through an officer training course because his commanding officers had concluded he lacked leadership ability. "That was because I answered back and questioned some of the stupid things we were asked to do," Hann says defiantly.

'Nuclear is essentially a very fine, clean way of producing electricity'

"It dented my pride a bit. I felt it was unfair." But he concludes that overall the army was a positive influence. "I came out of it a better person, a lot more confident and knowing that the world was a big place with lots of different points of view. I was an angry young man."

The anger to which he refers had been caused, indirectly, by his father's death at the age of 49. He died intestate. Hann, then 17, abandoned his schooling at Peter Symonds School, Winchester and shelved forever his hopes of becoming a naval officer. "It was necessary for me to stop everything and run the business. I had been involved in it since I was eight or nine years old. I was press ganged into working in that business because there was a war on, and I often used to fall asleep at school."

Although there appears to be a tinge of anger from the fact that his father doggedly steered him into the business, which was, after all, situated directly behind their terraced house — "You're right, my parents could have afforded something better but with a 5am start my father wanted to be able to walk straight out of his back door into



Away from it all: James Hann relaxes at his Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire, home overlooking the sea with his wife Jill

the factory" — and refused to agree to an alternative career at sea, the real anger was caused by the fate of the business after his father died. Death duties and a legal requirement for Hann to do national service meant that three years later, the business, which employed 110 people, was sold to United Dairies, now Unigate. For 18 years after his national service Hann worked for Unigate, mostly managing subsidiaries. "Everything he had worked for had gone down the drain. My grandfather had started it and my father had spent all his working life building it up for me and my brother. He was a hard man, with very strong principles and he worked like hell. He had a code of ethics which I have tried to live by." Perhaps Hann's change post-Seaforth can be explained by a belief that his achievements there would finally have won his father's

praise and somehow compensated him for the demise of James Hann & Sons, the family firm.

Hann's achievements at Scottish Nuclear, which supplies more than 40 per cent of Scotland's electricity, have been no less impressive. The company made £13.7 million last year, its first net profit. Two years previously, when Hann joined the company, it had lost £189.9 million. The then chief executive was told to go and for a nine-month period Hann did both jobs. He still works a six-day week, although not all of it on Scottish Nuclear. He is a director of William Baird, the textile group, the Scottish Transport Group, which operates buses, coaches and ferries in Scotland, and a member of the council of the Scottish CBI. But what motivates Hann now is not clear. "There are those who go through life and there are

those who go through life and make things happen. My grandfather and father were like that and that's what I'm doing too." But the question remains unanswered.

Hann can speak with missionary zeal about the needs and advantages of nuclear fuel but this cause, if it motivates him at all, is not sufficient to explain his drive. "I'm not a nuclear man, I'm a manager but a lot of concern built up about the nuclear industry is quite wrong. If you do not get mesmerised by the high tech and the prophets of gloom, you can see through to the other side. Nuclear is essentially a very fine, clean way of producing electricity. We have got to sharpen up and get it right so that when it is really needed, in the 21st century, when there is a gap in the supply and demand ratio, we

will be there. Yet the government has no energy plan. I asked for it when I came here but it does not exist and that is wrong. If you try to talk to the government about energy planning, they switch off. Yes it does irritate me that the government's attitude is so cavalier."

Hann's irritation will doubtless have been expressed. He admits he can have a very sharp tongue. He has also voiced his disapproval of pay in the public sector. His £39,000 salary was raised temporarily to £59,000 when he was running the company single handed last year. He knows he could command several times that amount in the private sector. "I do feel sorry about it," he says, particularly since this task has been so demanding. When I came into it, it was supposed to involve a couple of days a week." He mutters about the

Treasury being well aware of his views. Yet they are not so strong that he has sought employment elsewhere. "This is my main source of income," he says. He is clearly not motivated by money alone. His lifestyle, however, is comfortable.

He might wear a stainless steel watch and his boat might be an old Aberdeen harbour pilot cutter but one suspects his choice would be no different if he had all the money in the world. His home is a modern but individual four-bedroomed property with sea views, reflecting Hann's most enduring love — "The sea is an area of freedom, it is nature in the raw. I feel lonelier in the middle of London than I do on my boat in the middle of nowhere" — and he and his wife Jill, whom he married 35 years ago — "She was the nursing sister when I went into hospital to have my appendix out" — regularly holiday in the West Indies to escape the Scottish winters.

The Hanns do not, however, entertain regularly at home. "I'm a loner," he says. "I would never go to a pub. I work and I play. I enjoy a glass of wine if it is a special occasion, but I do not have an enormous circle of friends."

His brother qualifies that saying when he does entertain, he is generous to a fault. But while Hann might be like that with his own family, he would never invite business colleagues into his home. "You need to be just a little bit removed from the people at work. Be friendly, yes, be courteous, but do not get yourself into a position where if you want to bollock them you cannot. It's the only way to operate."

Finally I ask Hann what his father might have said, if he were to see him now. "I hope he would have been proud," he begins. "Yes that does motivate me. I did not know him very well and I think every child should know his father." So has he endeavoured to ensure his own children, David, aged 32, and Sarah, 30, know him better? "Perhaps not," he says. His brother would almost certainly agree.

"I am aware now, with hindsight, that I perhaps poured more energy into Seaforth than I did the family. I carried them all up to Scotland, a foreign land, and dumped them in a house. Then I went off all over the world. I was working 12 or 14 hour days. They were in bed when I went to work and in bed when I got back." Does he harbour any regrets then? "Yes, I wish I was 20 years younger. What is that old saying, about youth being wasted on the young?"

WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

Norman laments a tragedy of errors — not as he or the nation likes it

Kenneth Baker, the former home secretary whose oleaginous political skills could put gloss on a porcupine, believes the whirlwind events of the week have brought us to a "forest clearing". Others doubtless wish that the whirlwind had done what whirlwinds are supposed to do and transported certain of the week's key players at least as far as Kansas. Perhaps if we all click our heels together over the weekend...

But I digress, not to mention stray from Mr Baker's arboreal metaphor. So let us pause in this pleasant leafy glade in — what shall we call it, the Forest of Ardunby perhaps — and reflect on the extraordinary events of the past six days.

It began, as so many violent rows do, with a simple disagreement. The foreign exchange markets of the world believed that the pound was not worth more than DM2.778. Mr Lamont, as had become his habit, politely replied that he was of the mind that it was. And so the saga began, as one Shakespearean sage might have liked it, with the retort courteous.

If only it had stopped there. There is virtue in "if only" — as Mr Lamont is doubtless now reflecting. But, as we all now know, it did not.

Next it was the turn of one gentleman of Rome, Giuliano Amato, the Italian prime minister. Now Signor Amato, you may recall, had been having trouble convincing the money markets that the lira was worth virtually anything at all. But on Sunday, he thought he had the solution. He would agree to devalue the lira by 7 per cent because, he said, the Bundesbank had agreed to cut its pip-squeaking interest rates by a "significant" amount.

The world waited for the German response, convinced that recovery was poised to break out all over as European interest rates were released from their Teutonic corset. But characteristically, the Bundesbank's reply was to please itself, and promptly trimmed a measly quarter of a per cent off the



lombard rate. It was this, the quip modest (very, very modest), that cast the die.

Back in London, the disagreement escalated rapidly as Mr Lamont, despite promising unrepentant times to do "whatever is necessary", appeared to do little at all. Once again, he opined that the pound was worth at least DM2.778. Once again, the money markets demurred, rather impolitely suggesting that if he thought that then his judgment must be disabled, or the modern equivalent of the bard's words, and promptly decided to explore the territory below the now infamous and historic ERM floor. The gauntlet had been thrown down. The reply churlish delivered.

It was time, if ever it had been, for the reproof valiant. The lie, if it was such, had to be laid. Well, he had a go. But as covert and then overt intervention by the Bank of England failed to revive the ailing pound, the Chancellor was left with only one option. But his two-point rise in base rates to 12 per cent was too little, too late. As for the three-point rise that followed three hours later, that merely confirmed that merit of the market's reply churlish. Madness there was

in abundance, but where was the method? As the retreats were sounded — the pound from the ERM, the exchange rate south, Mr Lamont to No 11 and interest rates to where they started, the counterattacks quarrelsome fairly few. Downing Street blamed the Bundesbank, alleging that a two-week campaign of leak and comment had undermined the value of the pound. Mr Lamont was more personal, reportedly blaming Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, for almost everything — his intransigence in Bath, the feebleness of the bank's rate cut on Monday and most of all for his published comments that Sunday's realignment had not gone far enough.

As the prime minister moved swiftly to stop Mr Lamont turning into an air raid shelter (perhaps Mr Baker should be appointed Minister of Metaphor) so Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, moved to protect Herr Schlesinger. Monday's quarter-point rate cut was the Bundesbank's own decision, he said, and quite "in line with Herr Schlesinger's public pronouncements". But it was not

so much the cleaned-up, public statements that were worrying Mr Lamont, as what the German bank chief had actually said. The Bundesbank had no comment — which made a nice change. Chancellor Kohl had plenty.

As the pound bobbed towards an uncertain future and the stock market celebrated the economy's new found independence, those who emerged less than honourably from the episode were hoping that what fate had been told would be treated by history as lies circumstantial, not lies direct.

Like the central bankers who denied that their currencies were about to be devalued or leave the ERM, shortly before they did precisely that. Like Herr Waigel, who was still saying that "the EMS remains a central element of co-operation" as the week ended with the pound and lira devalued and outside the ERM, the peseta devalued, and franc, punt, crown and escudo struggling to stay on board. But most of all like the prime minister, he of the "no devaluation, no realignment" speech ten days ago, who warned that leaving the ERM would be "a betrayal of our future". But in the circumstances (that no-one believed his chancellor), what else could he say?

As future GCSE students will doubtless learn, if combatants draw the line at the lie circumstantial, they can measure swords and retreat with comparative honour. But from the lie direct there is no escape.

Which must be more than a little worrying for our "relatively shallow and short-lived" Chancellor, he of the green shoots and perpetually incipient recovery. The man who placed the ERM firmly at the centre of his economic policy, who repeatedly pledged that he would do whatever was necessary to maintain sterling's parity and who hoped, so loudly and on so many occasions, that there was no room for even a scintilla of doubt about his resolve. No, Mr Lamont, the lie direct is not at all as we like it.

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Long wait for pensions reform

Pensioners and employees contributing to company schemes can sleep no more easily in their beds after the first glossy document from the pension law committee this week.

As we head towards the anniversary of the death of Robert Maxwell it looks like there will be a long wait before any firm proposals on making company pension schemes safer will be made.

The committee, headed by Roy Goode, does not expect to pronounce before late summer or autumn next year. Then, even if accepted by the government, any subsequent legislation needs parliamentary time and will be lucky to be on the statute book by the fourth anniversary of Maxwell's death and the subsequent discovery that hundreds of millions of pounds had been plundered from Mirror Group pension schemes.

In the meantime many smaller and less dramatic pensions disasters will come to light from the wreckage of many of the companies that are failing every week. There will be little

redress for pensioners and employees in such schemes that collapse.

The government had asked in June for a report within 12 months and for urgent recommendations before that. Fat chance of that with a deadline for submissions to the committee set at the end of the year. Back in January the National Association of Pension Funds called for a balance between member and employer trustees, plus the appointment of independent trustees. It also wants custodians unrelated to the employing company to hold assets, and regular confirmation by auditors that such assets are held and invested as stated.

It will now be next January before the Goode committee begins to review the wisdom of such suggestions. New self-investment above a five per cent limit and loans at favourable rates to companies from their pension schemes are now



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

outlawed but, with no checks or controls, there is little to stop such dodgy deals.

All the time the pension scheme members can be kept nicely in ignorance of any wrongdoing or poor investment. Actuarial valuations only have to be produced every three years.

Of course, good schemes do all this and more. Many have, however, been remiss in telling members just what a great deal they are giving staff. As a result, they have lost members to personal pensions who would have been better off with their

company schemes. That leakage is likely to continue while there is no comfort for those fearing that the boss is going to do a bunk with their retirement fund.

It is the interests of employers, pensioners and employees to get the process moving. If one of the recommendations should prove to be independent trustees, or equal numbers of employee representatives, a massive training schedule should be getting under way.

Until there is more positive news, companies can help to calm nerves by providing more information.

more readily. Employees wanting personal information about future pension entitlement or transfer values can wait a long time. Such delays do not help to restore confidence in schemes. Pensions are deferred pay and if employees are to trust the custodian of the money they should feel able to find out what has happened to it.

Back to basics

It should soon become easier for people with a learning disability to take out life assurance. Negotiations have started between MENCAP City Insurance Services and 28 leading insurance companies in an attempt to challenge their reasons for refusing to insure people with a mental handicap. Twenty-five of the companies have refused to offer life assurance and personal accident policies, but the

charity's financial services offshoot is optimistic that the others will go ahead.

There is no research to show that people with a learning disability are more accident-prone, or a greater risk to insurers, says the charity. It says the attitude of most insurers smacks of prejudice.

All types of conditions can have seemingly unfair results when it comes to insurance. Those suffering from diabetes for example, often lament, that the firms offering the best deals on motor insurance will not even consider their applications.

Insurance companies, battered by storms, theft, subsidence, and Aids are not very brave at the moment. They need to return to first basics and address the risks according to official statistics. Then they can assess the individual records and conditions of applicants.

Blanket refusal to give cover does not serve the insurance industry well. It loses business and also alienates people who might be investment customers if their lives had not been deemed unworthy of cover.

Investors gamble on the cult of equities returning

Lindsay Cook reports on a week of roller coaster emotions for traders and savers alike

JUST as it looked safe to go back into equities, the new organisation to promote share ownership by small investors got the jitters and pulled its launch next week.

The ProShare Association was scheduled to launch next Wednesday but has put the event off until October because of the sterling crisis and the debate over the future of the exchange-rate mechanism.

Geoffrey Maddrell, the chief executive, said: "We are ready to launch the association for private investors/employee shareowners. However, as the UK economy is entering uncharted territory, I am convinced that we have to allow the short-term issues to be resolved."

He added that, once it was in place, the association would be able to help investors through difficult periods "such as this". He was speaking on Wednesday, when interest rates rose by 5 percentage points in one day and sterling was devalued by 10 per cent.

Mr Maddrell said it was "unrealistic to discuss long-term investment during a short-term monetary crisis."

Investors were, however, calling financial institutions for advice yesterday after Wednesday's roller coaster ride of interest rates and stockmarket gyrations.

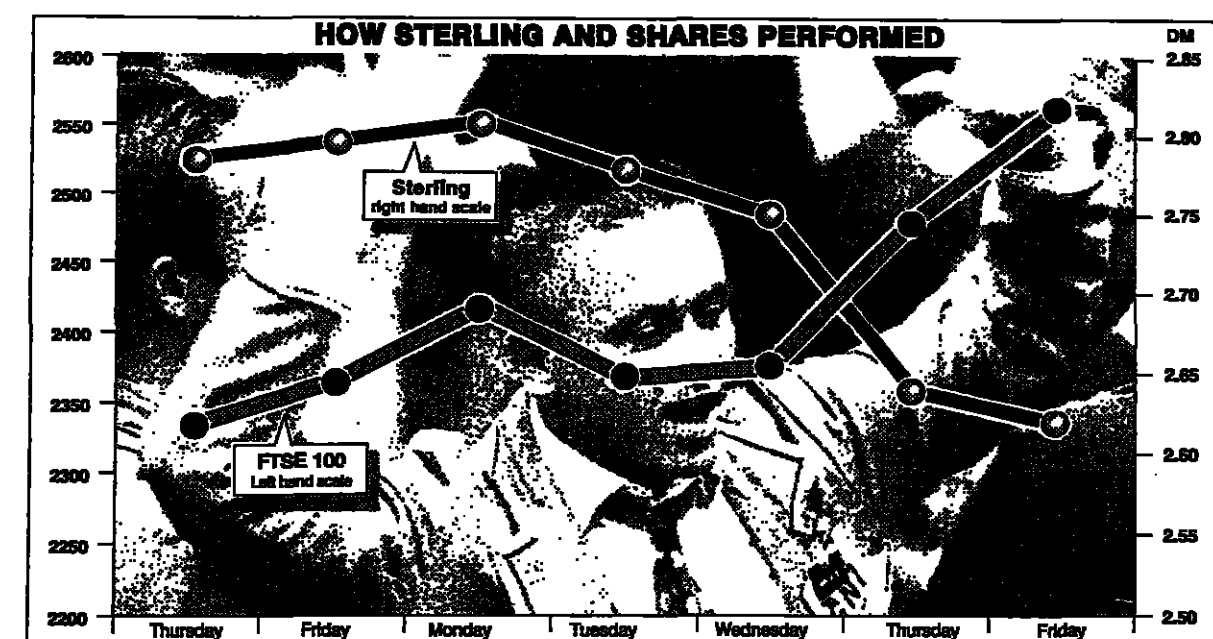
Many were still wanting to take a gamble on the dollar or mark in currency funds. Others were looking at European bond funds or seeking the certainty of fixed interest rates.

Investment houses were declaring that the day of the

equity had returned. United Kingdom share prices were cheap and with lower interest rates in prospect they were looking a good buy. Some investors had already got the message. NatWest Stockbrokers had its busiest day for two months on Thursday with people choosing to buy leading blue chip stocks with high overseas earnings.

Neil Stapley, managing director of NatWest stockbrokers, said: "Investors were choosing well-known names, good quality shares that had been knocked down recently." He expected more activity early next week as private investors tend to lag a day or two behind professionals.

Simon Walters, investment director at Save & Prosper, said: "The cult of the equity is upon us. For some time it has looked like last year's story and now it has returned. If the French say 'yes' on Sunday we will still have political



indicators such as buoyancy in credit card figures or housing pick up, it will go back into the exchange rate mechanism." He predicted the FTSE index would end the year at 2,750 or 2,800. After the election S & P

through collective investments such as unit trusts or investment trusts, said Mr Walters. Fidelity has found over the last few weeks that many investors believe themselves to be instant experts on currencies.

Most have yet to move back to shares. The group's view is that interest rates will come down further in Europe and that equity investment is safest in the United Kingdom, where there is no exchange rate risk.

Mary Blair, executive director product development, said: "Investors should look ahead for a year. If they believe that devaluing the pound is good for industry, then there is a strong argument for United Kingdom investment. There is little risk of inflationary pressures. The prospects for corporate growth have improved. The market

seems to have already discounted a 'no' vote in France. It is time for investors to sit down and look at their portfolios."

Those wanting to remain in cash are likely to find that fixed interest rates will disappear or be reduced for

new entrants soon. National Savings is offering 7.5 per cent tax-free over five years in its 38th issue savings certificate. As hopes of a rise in savings rates fade, savers may have to look to fixed rates or elsewhere if they do not want a further reduction in their income. The interest rates on building society and bank savings is likely to continue falling after two years of steady reductions.

Property prices remain in the doldrums with rental a better option in the short term for people seeking a home. This is particularly the case in the South where the number of properties for rent has increased substantially as people who cannot sell rent out their homes to cover their mortgage payments.

The cost can be as low as 6 per cent of the property's value for a year's lease. There is no buildings insurance or repairs to add to the cost and, even if interest rates fall and the market improves, there is little risk of renters being left behind. The first move will be to

stable prices and an easier market where properties that are priced realistically can sell quite quickly. Some time after that, when the properties currently overhanging the market have been sold, prices might move up slowly at about the same rate as inflation.

This will give those not yet in the market plenty of time to make their move.

People wanting to invest in property were offered insurance against higher interest rates for the first time this week by a business expansion scheme.

The tax-free scheme from Airways Housing Society has an undertaking that investors will not suffer if bank base rates rise above 10 per cent. It has deposits with Barclays Bank and, if interest rates should rise, so will the income from those deposits.

Gold, that traditional home for panicky investors, has moved up \$10 since the beginning of the month. It has fallen \$100 since the last big day of investment angst, Black Monday in October 1987.

NatWest Stockbrokers had its busiest day for two months on Thursday with people choosing to buy leading blue chip stocks with high overseas earnings

problems ourselves but shortly before the Conservative Party Conference I would expect another rate cut.

"The government will watch how sterling reacts and then, possibly in November if lead-

predicted that it would stand at 3,000 by the end of the year. Those investors who have been sitting on cash for some time should look at income stocks, possibly smaller companies and recovery stocks

Borrowers scramble to secure some fixed-rate peace of mind on mortgages

By LIZ DOLAN

LENDERS were swamped with appeals for fixed rate mortgages on Wednesday as anxious homeowners reacted to news of the shock 5 per cent rise in lending rates.

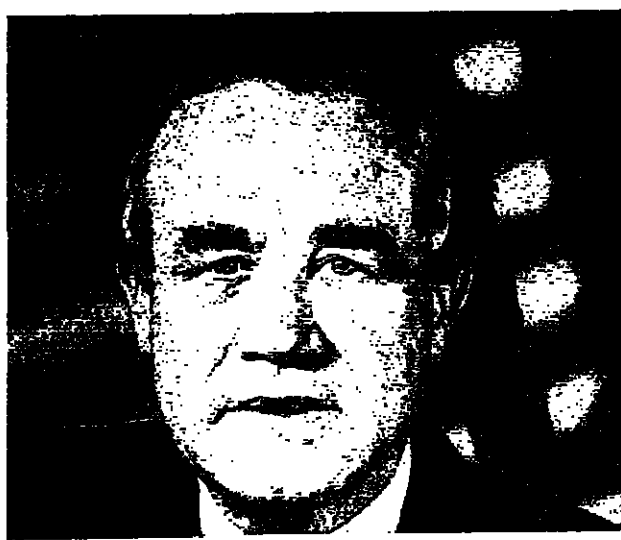
Hundreds of millions of pounds worth of fixed-rate funds were allocated a few hours after the initial announcement of a 2 per cent rise at 11 o'clock. News of the second rise during the afternoon intensified the panic.

Fears that mortgage rates were set to soar to a possible 15.6 per cent in a few days meant switchboards at banks and building society branches were jammed, and long queues formed at some counters.

Staff at the branches reacted with stunned amazement. An employee at a London branch of the Woolwich demanded news of the latest position with base rates. She said: "We're so busy, we don't even know what's happening out there. I'm worried about what's going to happen to my own mortgage, but I don't have time to find out."

Nationwide Anglia, the country's third biggest lender, responded to demands for more than £50 million worth of loans before it ran out of fixed-rate cash at 3 o'clock. A spokesman said the level of demand represented a seven or eightfold increase over business on a normal day. "Quite a few people rang the press office. All sorts of departments got calls," he said. "All we could tell them was to contact their own branches."

The successful applicants will now pay a fixed rate of 8.95 per cent over the next



Brisk demand: Donald Kirkham of the Woolwich

year, rising to 9.95 per cent in the subsequent two years. Abbey National reported "an amazing response". By coincidence, it launched a new fixed-rate mortgage at 9 o'clock on Wednesday, two hours before the first lending rate rise. By 3 o'clock, the money had all been allocated.

Funds for the Leeds's three-year, 9.85 per cent fixed-rate mortgage were exhausted by 5 o'clock on Wednesday. The offer was launched on August 19, but about 50 per cent of the total funding was still available early this week.

The Halifax took one look at the level of demand and promptly withdrew its offer of a four-year, 10.25 per cent, fixed-rate mortgage until things calmed down. A spokeswoman said: "We took it off the market because of

the highly volatile situation." There will be no new fixed-rate offer until the society has thoroughly reviewed the state of the market next week.

The Woolwich, headed by Donald Kirkham, also reported brisk demand for its offer of a 9.95 per cent rate fixed for four years. The offer closed on Wednesday afternoon.

John Charcol, the mortgage broker, said it had received 300 calls about fixed-rate mortgages. "That's a lot for us, not being an extremely large organisation," a spokeswoman said. Barclays and National Westminster Home Loans missed the party as both had run out of fixed-rate cash before Wednesday.

NatWest said: "We stopped offering fixed-rate mortgages earlier this week. We expect it to be a temporary measure

and there will be a new one shortly, but the funds for the old one have all been used."

Barclays said: "For the first time in a year, we had no fixed, or capped, rate mortgage on offer, because of the uncertainty. There will probably be some more money available next week, but it depends what happens over the next few days."

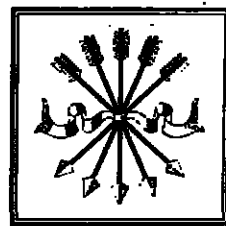
Most lenders are following Barclays's example and waiting for the dust to settle before re-entering the market. One said: "If the rate goes up, it may be difficult to persuade people to buy. We're waiting until things settle down."

However, some brave souls are already back in the fray.

The National Counties Building Society is offering a tiered-rate mortgage, with a choice of two time spans. The rate is fixed at 9.75 per cent until September 1993, and then at 9.95 per cent for another year, or two years, at the borrower's choice. The reservation fee is £200, and those who take up the offer must take out buildings insurance and contents or payment protection insurance through National Counties.

Chase de Vere, the mortgage broker, promises that its 9.9 per cent offer will be available until well next Wednesday at least. Borrowers can elect to fix the rate for two, three, or five years. It may be used for all types of conventional mortgages, including straight repayment. There are no conditional products, and the only upfront charge is a £225 fee to the lender.

The Bank of Ireland has reopened its three-year, 9.99 per cent offer.



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Unit-linked disaster

By Sara McConnell

POLICY holders who took out unit-linked life assurance or pensions contracts in the last five to 10 years could find themselves thousands of pounds worse off than those who have stuck with traditional with-profits policies, a survey out this week shows.

High charges and poor performance can also make a big difference between best and worst unit-linked payouts.

The survey was carried out by Money Marketing, in conjunction with Clay & Partners, the actuary. It examines the past performance and future projected performance of a range of 10 year maximum investment plans, unit-linked whole of life plans and personal pensions.

In an analysis of the results from 55 life offices, John Jenkins, partner at Clay said: "With one or two exceptions,

the overall conclusion of the comparison is that with-profits policies have on average outperformed their managed and UK equity fund based unit-linked counterparts."

A policyholder who put £35 a month into a 10-year maximum investment plan maturing in March 1992 would have paid in £4,200. Maximum investment plans are savings plans with minimum life cover. But the same investment would have shrunk to just £3,001 in the Reliance Mutual property fund, the worst performer. Even the Equity & Law Higher Income fund, the best fund, would have only paid out £3,636, investing the same sum in Equitable Life's 10-year with-profits endowment policy, – roughly comparable to a maximum investment plan – would have paid out £9,543. The best

managed fund, from Standard Life, would have produced £7,037. The idea of a managed fund is to spread risk by investing in a range of equities, gilts, fixed interest and property but some funds have been almost entirely invested in equities over the past few years, making them more risky than investors realised.

The survey also calculated projections using standard growth rates and companies own charges on other unit-linked policies including personal pensions. A 45-year-old man paying £50 into a personal pension would get a payout of £38,083 from Royal Life but only £26,517 from Albany Life, because of the impact of charges. The best payout for those starting their pension late comes from Rothschild, with £4,121 for a 60 year old man paying £50 a month.



Mourning his lost savings windfall: a poorer but wiser Lionel Paston-Cooper

Inflation beater fell foul of smaller companies policy

WHEN Lionel Paston-Cooper took out a savings plan with City of Westminster Assurance ten years ago, he hoped for a "nice little windfall to beat inflation". Instead, he received a payout of £4,508.48 last month, less than £400 more than his net contributions of £4,140 (writes Sara McConnell).

Mr Paston-Cooper, elder brother of a journalist on The Times, had paid £34.50 a month in his savings plan. On top of this he got life assurance premium relief on his monthly payments, increasing them initially by 17.5 per cent.

The money was invested in City of Westminster's Managed Balanced fund. This is one of a choice of funds open to investors in the company's unit-linked savings plans and is meant to give a spread of risk by investing in various securities like gilts, cash and property as well as equities. It is intended to be one of the safest types of unit-linked funds.

However, over the past 10 years, City of Westminster has been investing a large part of the managed fund in smaller companies. These have performed badly in the recession and are much more volatile than larger firms.

The Hoare Govett Smaller Companies Index underperformed the FT All-Share Index by 25 per cent in 1989 and 13 per cent in 1990.

William Lane, group investment manager of AGF Asset Management which has recently taken over the management of the City of Westminster funds, rejected the suggestion that investing in smaller companies was speculative and not suitable for investors in

the managed fund. "Smaller companies are higher risk, not speculative. But risk is a grey area. It is true that we had a much larger emphasis than the competition on smaller companies." The fund had performed well through much of the 1980s by investing in smaller companies, he added.

Now 65 per cent of the fund is invested in top 100 company equities, after a radical restructuring of the fund last year. The rest is in cash and bonds with no property exposure. But this was too late to revive the performance of Mr Paston-Cooper's investment.

Mr Paston-Cooper said: "I have held the plan for 10 years despite a couple of redundancies when I could have done with the money. The statements never looked particularly good even from the beginning."

Mr Lane said that 3 per cent of the premiums paid for life cover and that 0.75 per cent a year went in management charges. There was a bid after a spread of 5 per cent on the fund. He said the company had six funds launched in 1986 and 1987. Of these, five were in the upper quartile of their sector and the last in the third quartile. Two funds launched earlier were in the bottom quartile.

He added: "It is unfortunate that Mr Paston-Cooper's maturing policy coincided with a low level in the market and was invested in one of the poor performing funds."

Mr Paston-Cooper has not taken up the offer made to him at the beginning of this month by City of Westminster to reinvest the money in the policy and wait until unit prices rise.

CGT ALLOWANCE, AUGUST 1992

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in August 1992.

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
January	—	0.881	0.599	0.523	0.443	0.389
February	—	0.874	0.593	0.511	0.438	0.383
March	0.748	0.671	0.588	0.497	0.436	0.381
April	0.714	0.648	0.567	0.466	0.422	0.364
May	0.702	0.641	0.561	0.459	0.420	0.363
June	0.697	0.637	0.557	0.456	0.420	0.363
July	0.696	0.628	0.559	0.459	0.424	0.364
August	0.696	0.621	0.544	0.455	0.420	0.360
September	0.697	0.614	0.541	0.455	0.413	0.358
October	0.689	0.608	0.532	0.453	0.411	0.350
November	0.680	0.603	0.527	0.448	0.399	0.343
December	0.683	0.598	0.528	0.446	0.394	0.345
1988	1989	1990	1991	1992		
January	0.345	0.261	0.162	0.087	0.024	
February	0.339	0.242	0.156	0.081	0.019	
March	0.334	0.237	0.144	0.087	0.016	
April	0.313	0.215	0.110	0.044	0.001	
May	0.308	0.208	0.101	0.040	0.000	
June	0.303	0.204	0.096	0.036	0.000	
July	0.302	0.203	0.095	0.036	0.001	
August	0.287	0.199	0.084	0.036	—	
September	0.281	0.191	0.074	0.032	—	
October	0.268	0.182	0.066	0.028	—	
November	0.263	0.172	0.068	0.024	—	
December	0.259	0.169	0.069	0.024	—	

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

TSB plays at family favourites

A NEW savings deal from TSB looks at first as though it could cause a few family arguments. The scheme offers higher rates of interest to savers who register joint savings as a family group.

Peter Ayliffe, director of product marketing, denies it is a ploy to persuade family members with higher balances to stay with TSB, rather than transfer to a another savings institution offering higher returns.

He said: "We are certainly not trying to generate guilt among individual account holders. We see it more as a wonderful way for older members of the family to benefit younger savers."

Savings accounts eligible for

the Family Bonus scheme are First Save (for under-18s), flexible or 60-day notice accounts. The first pays a flat 7.25 per cent interest rate, the others a tiered rate.

Under the scheme, flexible and 60-day notice account holders are paid interest according to the tiered rate applicable to the total balance of all accounts in the family grouping. First Save investors receive interest equal to that on the highest earning account.

For example, a grouping of one 60-day account (balance: £9,000), two flexible savings accounts (balances: £2,500 and £300) and one First Save (balance: £60) would receive interest on a total of £11,860. The 60 Day and First Save accounts would both benefit from the same 9.10 per cent rate payable on amounts between £10,000 to £24,999.

The other two would get the 8.5 per cent rate for flexible account holders in the same tier.

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Getting up steam on the GCR

By NICOLA COLE

THE forthcoming share issue by the Great Central Railway (GCR), which aims to raise £2 million, will arguably be the most ambitious fund-raising scheme by any dedicated preservation company since the last regularly-scheduled steam train ran on British Rail almost 25 years ago.

Supporters are being contacted this month and the public share issue will be launched on November 12. It is also a considerable act of faith at a time when nearly all tourism attractions are experiencing falls in visitor totals, and the 40 preserved lines have had their toughest year since the mid-1970s.

The most astute "fat controllers" now accept that the viability, even survival, of preserved lines depends not only on pleasing the nation's two million enthusiasts but equally on appealing to families choosing a day out," said Ian Winter, a GCR spokesman. Hence the plan by the GCR, Britain's only preserved mainline

'Dividends are benefits ranging from two return tickets annually to lifetime travel passes'

steam railway (the rest are revived branches), to include facilities such as an interpretive centre, souvenir shop, restaurant and bar within its proposed period-style terminus at Leicester North.

This project alone will cost at least £800,000. A similar sum will go towards a scheme unique among preserved lines — doubling the eight miles of existing single track to Loughborough, allowing partial recreation of the original Great Central's glory days, running expresses on a network that extended from London Marylebone to Sheffield, Manchester and Grimsby. The balance of the money raised is to be used for restoration work and more facilities for passengers, who are predicted to exceed 250,000 this year.

As one of the East Midlands' leading tourist attractions, how successful will the GCR be in attracting the cash? Judging from the results of earlier share issues by other

preserved lines also operating as ples, the railway can expect a good initial response, yet several years are likely to elapse before it raises the full £2 million.

The second issue of £1 Ordinary shares by the Bluebell Railway in East Sussex has, for instance, raised more than £300,000 in 18 months to supplement revenue from fares, filming (*Poirot*, *Voyage Round My Father* etc) and overnight Pullman trips.

Bernard Holden, the chairman and superintendent, views this as "quite successful, considering the recession" — but says more finance is required to further extend the six-mile line to East Grinstead and the proposed interchange station with BR (an important key to boosting profits for all such lines). The 32-year-old Bluebell increased its main

income from fares by 3 per cent to £628,782 in 1991, but retained a profit of £24,221 from £116,527 in 1990. The present season is described as

"reasonable". The Severn Valley Railway, which follows a picturesque 16-mile route between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster, last year carried 15,467 fewer passengers than in 1990. This helped turn a £100,818 profit into a £34,368 loss. But there continues to be "a good response" to the 1988 issue of £1 Ordinary shares: it attracted £68,837 during 1991. Shares are still being issued at par.

Meanwhile, the West Somerset Railway last year bucked national trends by not only raising its passenger total by 2 per cent to 116,513, but also more than tripling pre-tax profits to £24,197. Effective marketing and increased value for money are its watchwords. The longest of Britain's preserved lines, stretching 20 miles through old Great Western territory from Bishops Cleeve, near Taunton, to Minehead, the WSR offers unadvertised 10p Ordinary shares in minimum allotments of £50.

With all share-issuing lines, investors "dividends" customarily comprise benefits ranging from two free return tickets annually, to complimentary admission and lifetime travel passes.

There is no established market for the shares, though dealings have been effected under Stock Exchange rules, and they are essentially more than a fun investment.

A £25 stake in the Severn Valley brings a ticket allocation worth £17.80, for example. Some investors subscribe largely for the tax relief available under the Business Expansion Scheme. But most buy their shares with no thought of financial gain but to help keep the steam heritage alive for future generations.



Brief encounter: Great Central Railway has just eight miles of track at the moment

THE 200,000 savers and borrowers with the Heart of England Building Society are beginning to anticipate the windfall gains they will get should the society be taken over by the Bank of Edinburgh (Lindsay Cook writes).

It is the first time a non-building society has attempted to take over a building society. Both parties are eager for the move to go ahead. They now need the sanction of the Building Societies Commission and the society's members.

The bank, set up more than two years ago with the purpose of buying smaller building societies, will need the approval of the investors and homebuyers. At least half the eligible voters must vote, and three quarters of them must be in favour of the move.

To help to persuade the members, they will be offered a share of the £1 billion society's £45 million reserves. The amount each saver and borrower will receive will not be revealed until after a friendly action, expected next month in the High Court, between the society and bank and the commission.

This will open the way for the takeover, and whatever is offered by the bank is unlikely to be improved on by any rival suitors. Those looking to buy a building society will want the deal to go through without any problems to clear their way for future mergers.

When Abbey National became a bank in 1989, it

Heart of England savers wait for takeover

needed 20 per cent of its 4.5 million savers to vote, and 75 per cent of those to be in favour. The turnout was 60 per cent and more than 90 per cent of those were in favour.

John Wrigglesworth, of UBS Phillips & Drew, believes the need for Heart of England to get half the eligible savers to vote, and only a straight majority of borrowers who vote to be in favour, will mean savers will get a larger amount. "Savers are, after all, the traditional owners of societies."

While those who had £100 in qualifying Abbey National accounts got 100 free shares each, in the case of Heart of England, the qualifying investment is £25. That means that the society will have a greater proportion of qualifying investors and is likely to give the same to all savers. The logic to this is that, should the bonus be £300, it will be worth a lot more to the small savers

who dramatically outnumber those with £10,000 or more in their accounts.

The standard bonus may alienate a few big savers, but larger numbers of small savers may not bother to vote if the bonus is according to the amount in the account. A three or four per cent bonus would hardly be worth voting for, for those with £100 or less in their accounts.

Members are also likely to be offered options to buy shares. In the case of Abbey National, shares were priced at 130p and the offer was 2.7 times subscribed. That meant there was a 775 share limit per application. The shares have more than doubled in value since.

It is too late to open or top up an account at Heart of England in an attempt to get a bonus. When Abbey National converted there were some late profits. The Abbey announced in March 1988 its intention to convert the next year. It then set a cut off date of December 31, that year for qualifying investments.

This did not allow people to invest money and get free shares, but they could open accounts for children under 18, who did not qualify for shares, and get a payment of 5 per cent of the balance at the year-end.

Heart of England and Bank of Edinburgh are likely to have set the qualifying date earlier this year to avoid similar opportunism.



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Your cheque should be crossed and made payable to 'NATIONAL SAVINGS (PREMIUM BONDS)' — using CAPITAL letters for this part of the cheque.

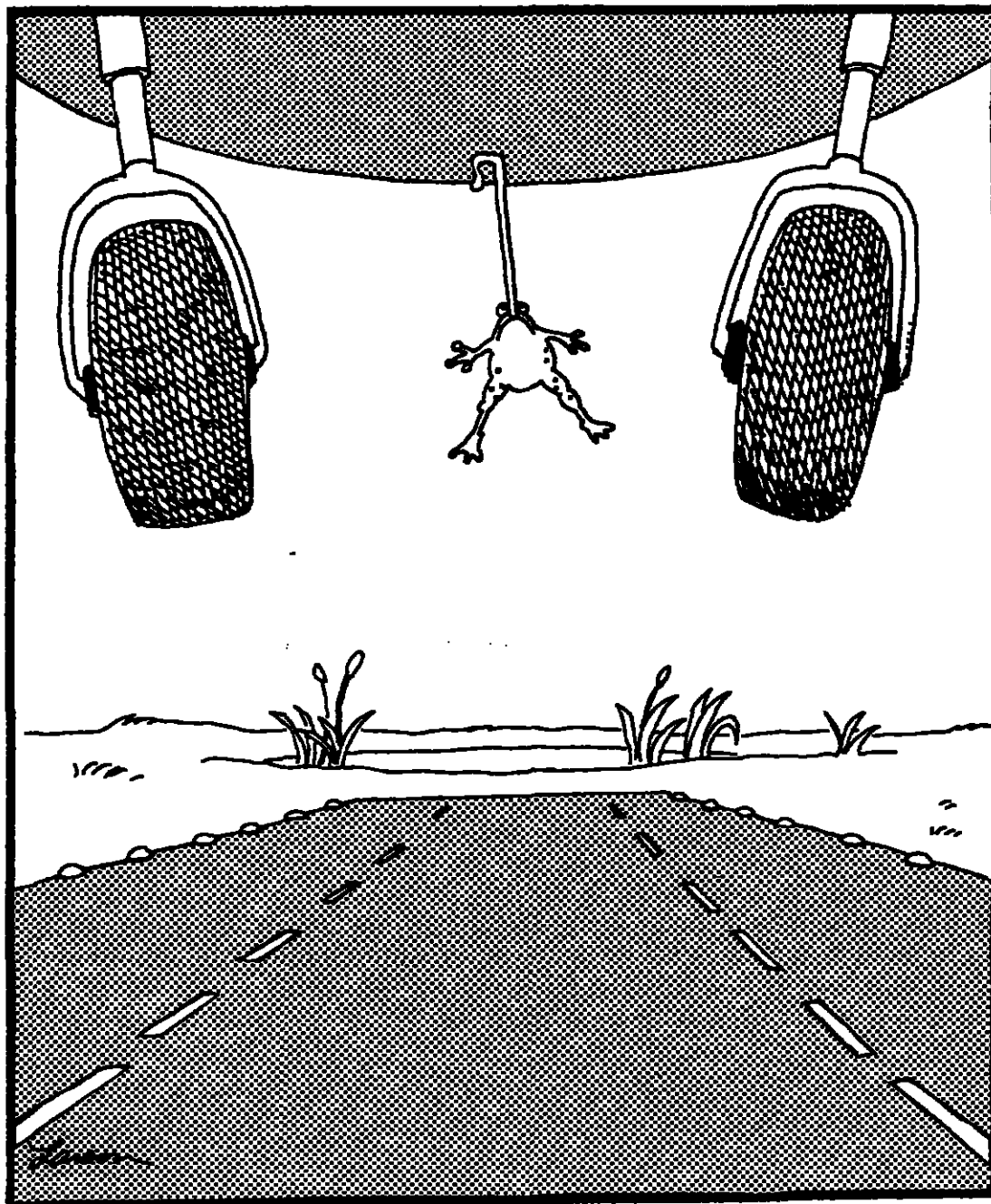
Please write your name and address on the back of your cheque.

Post your completed application form and cheque to National Savings (Premium Bonds), Freepost BJ881, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY0 1BR. Or, to ensure rapid delivery, attach a first class stamp.

If, before applying, you would like a leaflet and prospectus, pick them up at your post office or call us free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 0800 883 883.

Premium Bonds are sold subject to the terms of the Series B prospectus. We give three months notice of any changes to the prize structure and the underlying interest rate that makes up the prize fund (at present this is 6.5%pa tax-free).

If you buy by post, once we have accepted your application we will send you your Premium Bond together with a copy of the prospectus, normally within a month. The purchase date will be the date we receive your application. If on receiving your Premium Bond and prospectus you wish to cancel your purchase tell us in writing within 28 days and we will refund your money. Your Bond will go into the prize draws after you have held it for three full calendar months.



Go for the big one.
Win £250,000 every month
with Premium Bonds.

Please send this form to: National Savings, PREMIUM BONDS, FREEPOST BJ881, Lytham St Annes, Lancs FY0 1BR. TM 165 C O U

1 Do you already hold Premium Bonds? (Please tick) Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes, please enter your Holder's Number

2 Amount in words _____ pounds £ Minimum £100 (£10 for a child under 16). Larger amounts must be in a multiple of £10.

3 M _____ Surname _____
(No New Names)
All forenames _____
Address in full _____

Postcode _____ Date of birth _____
(essential for under 16s)

4 I accept the purchase will be subject to the terms of the Series B Prospectus.
Signature _____ Date _____

5 If buying for a child under 16, give name of parent/guardian:
M _____ Surname _____
(No New Names)
All forenames _____

6 If buying for a grandchild, give name of the parent/guardian above and your own name and address below.
M _____ Surname _____
(No New Names)
All forenames _____
Address _____
Postcode _____

This form cannot be used to purchase Premium Bonds at a post office or bank.

NATIONAL SAVINGS
SECURITY HAS NEVER BEEN SO INTERESTING.

NEED ADVICE ON A PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN?

Ring our free Moneyline from 9.00 a.m. — 5.30 p.m., 7 days a week, on
0800 282 101

SAVE & PROSPER
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE
Member of IFA and LAMPS

WITH PROFITS BOND

An investment opportunity with guaranteed peace of mind.

Investing on the Stock Market can often be extremely lucrative. You may be able to achieve a much higher rate of return than that offered by a fixed interest savings account.

But there is an element of risk involved. You could also lose money rather than make money.

Equitable Life's With-Profits Bond reduces the risk. If you have £500 or more to invest, you can place it in a managed fund of assets comprising equities, properties and fixed interest securities.

Whatever future market conditions are like, we guarantee that at certain times you can encash the bond for at least the original value of the contractual benefits.

Over the long term, however, such a mixed portfolio of assets offers the prospect of a real capital growth.

If you'd like to know how to make more of your savings without disturbing your peace of mind, call Aylesbury (0296) 26226 or return the coupon below for information by post and by telephone.

MEMBER OF LAUTRO

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WATSON STREET, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR.
I would welcome information on The Equitable's With-Profits Bond. ☐ YES ☐ NO

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms) _____
ADDRESS _____

Postcode _____ Tel (Office) _____
Date of Birth _____ Tel (Home) _____

The Equitable Life

Before you look to your future, look to our past.

M&G
book

M&G
book

LETTERS

Government pensions advice casts doubt on inflation pledge

From Mr R. W. Lilley
Sir, As a pension fund trustee, I have just received a guide issued by The Occupational Pensions Board. It refers to the risk to the adequacy of pension schemes in that future inflation, with associated increases in pay levels, will raise the amounts of benefits to levels greater than those allowed for in the funding of schemes. The need is, therefore, for investments that grow in such circumstances.

It says ordinary shares in the past have met that need whereas fixed interest gilt-edged stocks have not. The

guide concludes that fixed interest gilt-edged stocks are, therefore, generally regarded as risky investments for pension scheme trustees. The guide has been prepared by The Department of Social Security and The Central Office of Information. This statement surely means the government believes its fight against inflation will not be won. What an extraordinary admission. This must bode ill for further issues of gilts.

Yours faithfully,
R. W. LILLEY,
Director, Caler Allen Holdings,
20 Birch Lane, EC3.

Confusion over interest breakdown

From Mr Paul Gully
Sir, A couple of months ago I underpaid my monthly Access account by the amount of £19.86p, having misread the final total.

In the following monthly statement there appeared an interest charge of £55.14, described as at 1.9 per cent per month.

Having questioned this, I was assured that interest had been correctly applied in accordance with the conditions of use.

This interest, however, is applied not to the unsettled balance but apparently to the

whole of the items debited to my account from the month concerned until payment was received.

Since the convoluted wording of the bank's reply makes it difficult to be sure, however, I wrote to ask for a breakdown of the interest calculations. That was three weeks ago, but I am sure they are working on it.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL GULLY,
Bay Trees,
Butlers Cross,
Ellesborough Road,
Aylesbury,
Buckinghamshire.

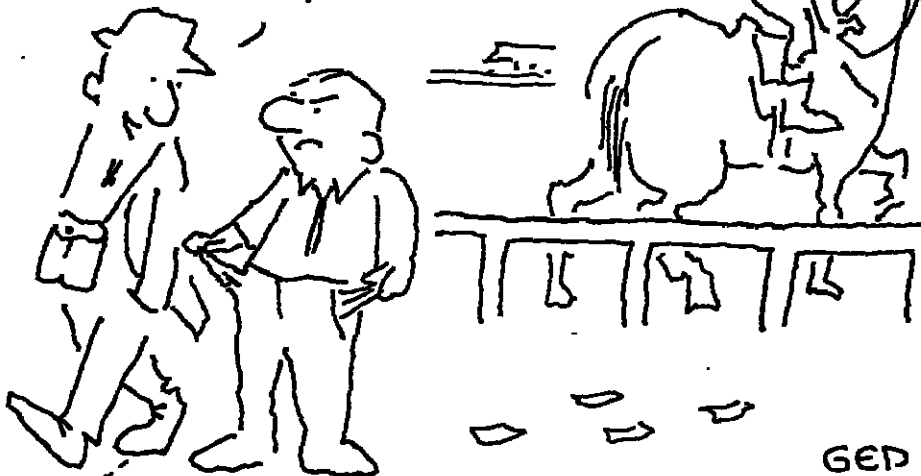
Career loan

From Miss R. M. Scrimshaw
Sir, I wonder if the following might be of interest to you:

There exists a government-funded scheme called a Career Development Loan, which is still not widely known about and I feel should be more widely publicised — it consists of an interest-free loan covering a one-year course and other expenses up to £5,000, repayable from three months after cessation of the course, and is operated by high street banks. It can be used for a range of courses, including university ones (the secretary of my college was unaware of it) and is particularly valuable for mature students or those wishing to change careers, who may not be able to access educational loans. (Information can be got from Freephone 0800 585505).

Yours faithfully,
R. M. SCRIMSHAW,
49 Elm Park Gardens, SW10.

Do you think I could get
a Career Development Loan
as a tipster



Way towards fairer bank charges for everyone, including businesses

From Mr D. H. R. Holland
Sir, I would like to suggest a system for bank charges which would be fair for everyone, including businesses.

All banks should charge 75p (or whatever amount is deemed necessary from time to time) for every entry that is made on a bank statement. In

return, the banks would pay interest on daily cleared balances as follows:

Balances up to £1,000 — base rate less 3 per cent

Balances up to £5,000 — base rate less 2 per cent

Balances up to £10,000 — base rate less 1 per cent

Balances over £10,000 — a minimum of base rate and negotiable.

Should an unauthorised temporary overdraft occur,

when an account is normally kept in credit, e.g. someone drawing cash against an uncleared cheque, then a charge would be made for that day(s) on the basis of base rate plus 4 per cent.

The resultant amount each quarter would either be a credit (subject to income tax) or a debit (not allowable for tax). With base rates currently at 10 per cent, it can be seen that a daily cleared credit

balance of around £2,750 is needed to eliminate the costs of running an account with some 25 entries per month.

Finally, my system might even help the banks by reducing the number of different accounts that most people have.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID H. R. HOLLAND,
The Holland & Sherry Group,
9/10 Savile Row,
W1.

Bardycard APR in a class of its own

From Mrs Valerie Moncur
Sir, The annual percentage rate of 32.5 per cent charged by Harrods to the chairman of the UKAEA (Weekend Money, September 5) is totally outclassed by that of 920 per cent charged to me by Bardycard a few weeks ago.

Interest of £21.81 was charged for one day's late receipt of the full outstanding balance on my account of £856.87.

In my case, salt was rubbed into the wound by the response by Bardycard to my explanation and request for a waiver.

Having explained how it was that the cheque, drawn eight days before due date,

was not paid into Bardycard Bank until three days before due date, I was told to remember "to allow four clear working days for payments made through a bank or seven days by post".

Yours faithfully,
VAL MONCUR,
1 Elm Cottage,
Thames Street,
Sonning-on-Thames,
Berkshire.

Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS					
Ordinary Dep A/c	2.63	2.66	2.12	none	7 day
Fixed Term Deposits:					
Barclays	6.58	6.56	5.25	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-625 1567
Bank of Scotland	6.19	6.19	4.95	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-625 1567
City of London	6.09	6.09	4.87	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-625 1567
Lloyds	5.90	5.90	4.72	2,500-10,000	6 mth Local Branch
Midland	6.06	6.06	5.30	10,000-100,000	1 mth 071-625 1567
NatWest	6.38	6.38	5.10	25,000-50,000	1 mth 071-726 1000
	6.00	6.00	4.80	25,000-50,000	3 mth 071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS					
Bank of Scotland MMC	6.49	6.68	5.34	2,500+	none 031-442 7777
Barclays	5.03	5.13	4.10	2,500+	none 0604 252891
Co-operative	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000+	none 071 626 6543
Globebank	4.88	4.88	3.90	1,000+	none 061 966 2076
Lloyds NICA	1.50	1.51	1.21	1,000+	none 0272 423772
Midland NICA	3.89	3.92	3.14	2,000+	none 0742 528655
NatWest	3.75	3.80	3.04	500+	none 0800 200 400
Special Reserve	4.50	4.58	3.66	2,500	none 031-558 8555
Scottish Bank	4.31	4.31	3.45	2,000+	none 071-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES					
Ordinary Share A/c	2.70	2.03	1.82	1+	none
Best buy — largest socs:					
Barclays	7.80	7.80	6.24	2,000 min	Postal
Bank of Scotland	7.80	7.80	6.24	2,000 min	Postal
City of London	7.80	7.80	6.24	2,000 min	Postal
Lloyds	7.80	7.80	6.24	2,000 min	Postal
Midland	7.80	7.80	6.24	2,000 min	Postal
NatWest	7.80	7.80	6.24	2,000 min	Postal
Scottish Bank	7.80	7.80	6.24	2,000 min	Postal
Best buy — all socs:					
The Scarborough	7.50	7.50	6.00	250 min	Postal
Yorkshire Building	7.50	7.50	6.00	250 min	Postal
St James	6.08	6.06	6.45	50,000 min	60 day
National Counties	7.73	7.73	6.18	20,000 min	90 day
Furness	6.03	6.03	6.42	50,000 min	1 year
Cash/Cheque Accounts:					
Halifax	2.00	1.50	1.50	50 min	Rates rise
Barclays	2.44	2.44	1.95	25 min	with larger
NatWest	1.88	1.88	1.50	1 min	balances
Compiled by Chase de Vere Moneyline - call 071 404 6766 for further details					
NATIONAL SAVINGS					
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day 041-649-4555
Investment A/c	8.25	6.19	4.95	5-25,000	1 mth 041-649-4555
Income Bond	9.00	6.75	5.40	2,000-50,000	3 mth 0233 58161
First Out Bond	7.25	7.25	5.80	1,000-50,000	041-649-4555
37th Issue Cert	7.50	7.50	7.50	25,000-80	8 day 091-386-4900
Yearly Plan	7.50	7.50	7.50	20-400/mth	14 day 091-386-4900
Children's Bond	10.10	10.10	10.10	25-1,000	25-1,000
Gen Est Bond	5.01	5.01	5.01	100-100,000	8 days 041-649-4555
Capital Bond	10.00	7.50	6.00		
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS					
Prosperity	8.40	8.40	7.14	25,000 min	1 yrs Figures from
Canterlin	8.40	8.40	7.23	2,000 min	2 yrs Chase de
Laurentian Life	8.40	8.40	7.48	50,000 min	3 yrs Vero
Providentia Capt	8.25	8.25	7.01	25,000 min	4 yrs 071 404 5766
Laurentian Life	8.25	8.25	7.61	50,000 min	5 yrs for details
Holiday rates					
RPI (August 91-92)	+3.2%				
Standard Rate	18%				
Personal Loan	15.6-32%				
Credit Card					
Spanish Pesetas:					
French Francs:					
Greek Dracmas:					
Italian Lira:					

1.2% for balances below £500, but 2% of interest for free, interest accounts for withdrawals of £100 or more. Additional holdings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing retained deposits. 1% fee. *Interest payable gross 54p per £100 per year.

BRIEFINGS

TAXPAYERS have six weeks to submit their tax returns for 1991-2. Failure to meet the October 31 deadline could result in interest charges or penalties for taxpayers who receive income gross.

The Consumers' Association has this week published the latest edition of *Which? Way to Save Tax*, aimed at helping those who have over-paid tax in the past as well as those who want to avoid paying too much in the future. The book warns that tax rules are bound by time limits that can be as short as 30 days or as long as six years.

It includes a step-by-step guide to filling in a tax form, and advice on how to deal with the Inland Revenue. Capital gains, stamp duty, age allowance, working abroad, life insurance, pensions and inheritance are all examined. People who give away possessions and money while they are alive to save their heirs from huge tax bills are warned: "Don't threaten your own financial security in the rush to save tax. Value-added tax and national insurance are also touched on, particularly in relation to the self-employed. The book, published jointly with Hodder & Stoughton, costs £13.99.

□ Fiona Price Associates, an all-female financial services company, has produced a free leaflet, *Tax Form Guidelines*, which is available from its London office. It contains tips on what documents to gather together, what to do if some are missing, how to fill in the tax form and how to appeal if an assessment looks wrong. Much emphasis is placed on the importance of organisation, early planning and record keeping.

□ Married couples who want all or half of the married

couple's allowance given to the wife next year may now ask their tax office for Form 18, which should be returned before April 6 next year. The arrangement chosen will then apply in all future tax years until they change the allocation.

□ The general uncertainty about interest rates has prompted the Scarborough Building Society to offer new borrowers a discount on the prevailing variable rate for the first six years of the mortgage. They receive a 1 per cent discount in the first year, and 0.5 per cent for the next five years. The fee is £145 and borrowers must also take out the society's buildings and contents insurance.

□ Prime Health, a health insurance company, has launched two new plans for people on tight budgets. The first, *Hospital Care*, allows immediate surgical treatment for 12 disorders, including hip and knee replacements, haemorrhoids, hernias and varicose veins. Other ailments qualify for cover only if National Health treatment is not available within six weeks of seeing a specialist. Cover for a family of four, where the eldest is aged 39, costs £21.90 a month. The second plan, *Hospital Care Plus*, provides comprehensive cover for all treatment, except psychiatric care, at 500 selected hospitals.

cleared balances, at 2.5 per cent below bank base rate, on balances up to £10,000 and rises to 1 per cent below base rate on amounts of more than £25,000. The terms are offered for 12 months and after that time they will be renegotiated.

□ People earning £20,000 a year and wanting a free gold card for life have only a few weeks left in which to apply for one. From October, Co-operative Bank increases the qualifying income for its gold Visa card to £30,000. There are 160,000 holders of the gold card, which was launched last September. To qualify, applicants must also be over 25 and homeowners. Annual fees on other gold cards can be as much as £95. Even those who were initially turned down can reapply by the end of the month if they have further information to support their applications.

□ Birmingham Midshires, the 13th largest building society, is now selling Sun Life's distribution fund. About 40 per cent of the fund is invested in blue chip UK shares and the remainder in index-linked government stocks, fixed-rate securities and convertible bonds. The minimum investment in the fund, which has £478 million under management, is £5,000.

□ People who invest before the end of next month in the Midland Bank's new unit trust, called the *balanced fund*, will receive a bonus allocation. Investments between £1,000 and £4,999 earn a 1 per cent bonus; higher amounts earn 2 per cent. The fund will invest in a range of cash deposits, fixed interest and equity sectors with a view to ironing out the effects of stock market fluctuations. Six existing unit trusts will be merged with the new trust to create a £300 million fund, the aim of which will be to generate both capital growth and income. The six trusts are: *capital, international, high street, smaller companies, Meridian income and growth*, and *managed portfolio*.

□ Yorkshire Bank has put together a package for schools that opt for grant maintained status. Under the 1988 Education Reform Act, state schools can take direct control of their own funding and opt out of local education authority control. The GMS account has no charges and offers a cheque book account with statements, as frequently as the school needs them. Credit interest is paid quarterly on

For more details of this fund ring our free Moneyline now on: 0800 282 101 9.00 am-5.30 pm, 7 days a week.

SAVE & PROSPER

THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

A member of IMRO and Lauro.

1	+7	+8	+2	+1	+7
2	+4	+8	+1	+8	+8
3	+6	+5	+2	+3	+7
4	+8	+5	+2	+1	+7
5	+6	+4	+1	+2	+8
6	+5	+9	+1	+5	+7
7	+3	+7	+6	+5	+7
8	+6	+5	+4	+1	+7
9	+7	+5	+1	+3	+8
10	+3	+7	+5	+5	+8
11	+3	+6	+6	+4	+8
12	+8	+4	+1	+2	+7
13	+3	+6	+8	+4	+8
14	+5	+8	+2	+9	+7
15	+7	+4	+2	+1	+8
16	+5	+3	+1	+1	+8
17	+7	+4	+2	+2	+8
18	+6	+5	+2	+2	+8
19	+4	+9	+1	+7	+8
20	+7	+6	+3	+1	+9
21	+7	+4	+1	+3	+8
22	+5	+8	+2	+7	+8
23	+3	+8	+5	+5	+8
24	+3	+7	+1	+6	+8
25	+6	+5	+2	+1	+8
26	+6	+4	+1	+2	+7
27	+5	+5	+6	+6	+7
28	+6	+9	+1	+9	+8
29	+6	+5	+3	+2	+7
30	+4	+7	+1	+6	+8
31	+7	+3	+2	+2	+8
32	+4	+9	+2	+9	+8
33	+3	+6	+5	+4	+8
34	+6	+5	+2	+1	+7
35	+7	+5	+2	+1	+7
36	+3	+6	+6	+4	+8
37	+4	+8	+1	+5	+8
38	+3	+6	+7	+5	+8
39	+6	+4	+1	+2	+8
40	+3	+5	+3	+4	+8
41	+6	+5	+2	+1	+7
42	+6	+5	+2	+3	+8
43	+4	+6	+4	+6	+8
44	+4	+8	+1	+6	+8

GUINNESS FLIGHT

MANAGED CURRENCY FUNDS
CATCH THE DOLLAR WHILE IT'S DOWN

IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE

With the Dollar/Sterling exchange rate at its current level, a classic investment opportunity has arisen for active investors. Remembering timing is an important key to successful investment you should act now, before rates readjust further and the opportunity to profit evaporates.

The recent extreme weakness of the Dollar, and the imminent likelihood of its further recovery, makes Guinness Flight's Managed Currency Fund a most attractive investment opportunity, bearing in mind that, right now, the fund is 75% Dollar-invested.

Since June 1980, the fund has produced a performance of over 45% in Sterling terms (35% in US\$). This fund and its sister fund are two of the largest SIB recognised Channel Islands based

funds with a total of US\$ 130 million invested on a managed currency basis. To learn more, ring Jamie Kilpatrick on (0481) 712176, or return the coupon.

† Charges: Discounts of up to 45% available on the normal 5% initial charge for large investments. Low annual charge 0.75% p.a. Minimum investment £50,000 + 75% in £ terms. Last 5 years. Offer to bid, accumulative shares. Guinness Flight International Accumulation Fund, Managed Currency Fund.

0481 712176 (0481 712176) Fax 0481 712186. Please send me further information on the Guinness Flight International Accumulation Fund, Managed Currency Fund.

Title _____ Name _____
Address _____
Country _____

1982

GUINNESS FLIGHT
MANAGED CURRENCY FUND

Return to Guinness Flight Fund Managers (Guernsey) Limited, PO Box 250, Guernsey, Channel Islands. Tel (0481) 712176. Fax (0481) 712186.

Please send me further information on the Guinness Flight International Accumulation Fund, Managed Currency Fund.

Title _____ Name _____
Address _____
Country _____

1982

Notice to
Firstdirect
customers.

With effect from 17 September 1992 Firstdirect base rate is decreased by 2.0% p.a. from 12.0% p.a. to 10.0% p.a.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to Firstdirect base rate are varied accordingly, with the exception of the following:

Authorised overdraft rate on cheque account is unchanged at 18.0% p.a.

Authorised overdraft rate on premier cheque account is unchanged at 13% p.a.

first direct
0345 100 100

Firstdirect is a division of Midland Bank plc. Firstdirect, Millthorpe Park Lane, Leeds LS11 0LT. Tel. 0345 100 100.

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your right share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you will have won tonight's prize. If you win, you must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
1	Wilson (C)	Building, Rts	100	10	10	10
2	Low (Wm)	Foodst	100	10	10	10
3	WPP	Paper, Print	100	10	10	10
4	Time Products	Drugs, Svs	100	10	10	10
5	Campani	Leisure	100	10	10	10
6	Metron	Electrical	100	10	10	10
7	Sindar	Textiles	100	10	10	10
8	ASDA Group	Foods	100	10	10	10
9	Allied Irish	Banks, Dis	100	10	10	10
10	Durham	Mining	100	10	10	10
11	ASW	Industrial	100	10	10	10
12	T & S Stores	Drugs, Svs	100	10	10	10
13	As Oil & Gas	Oil, Gas	100	10	10	10
14	Refuge	Insurance	100	10	10	10
15	Calendia	Finance, Land	100	10	10	10
16	Prop Security	Property	100	10	10	10
17	Roper	Industrial	100	10	10	10
18	Elved Barcon	Building, Rts	100	10	10	10
19	Brenton	Property	100	10	10	10
20	DJI Group	Foods	100	10	10	10
21	Paton	Electrical	100	10	10	10
22	Vandy (Reg)	Micro, Air	100	10	10	10
23	Videns	Industrial	100	10	10	10
24	Liquid Chem	Drugs, Svs	100	10	10	10
25	News Int	Newspap, Pub	100	10	10	10
26	Heath C E	Insurance	100	10	10	10
27	Lon Forthg	Finance, Land	100	10	10	10
28	Brown Charles	Industrial	100	10	10	10
29	MTM	Chem, Pils	100	10	10	10
30	Bradford	Property	100	10	10	10
31	Buifels	Mining	100	10	10	10
32	Edridge P A	Breweries	100	10	10	10
33	Hambro Envoy	Property	100	10	10	10
34	Northern Elec	Electrical	100	10	10	10
35	TT Group	Industrial	100	10	10	10
36	Brake Bros	Foods	100	10	10	10
37	Domino	Electrical	100	10	10	10
38	Bula Resources	Oil, Gas	100	10	10	10
39	Leigh	Chem, Pils	100	10	10	10
40	Savills	Property	100	10	10	10
41	Queens Meat	Foodst	100	10	10	10
42	Countryside	Building, Rts	100	10	10	10
43	CRIT	Textiles	100	10	10	10
44	Temple Girth	Finance, Land	100	10	10	10

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Total

There were no valid claims for the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. The £2,000 will be added to Monday's competition.

High Low Company Price Div Yld P/E

Bank	Div	Yld	P/E
2000 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2001 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2002 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2003 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2004 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2005 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2006 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2007 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2008 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2009 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2010 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2011 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2012 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2013 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2014 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2015 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2016 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2017 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2018 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2019 Alliance UK	100	10	10
2020 Alliance UK	100	10	10

2021 Alliance UK 100 10 10

2022 Alliance UK 100 10 10

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2034 Alliance UK 100 10 10

2035 Alliance UK 100 10 10

2036 Alliance UK 100 10 10

2037 Alliance UK 100 10 10

2038 Alliance UK 100 10 10

2039 Alliance UK 100 10 10

Strong end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 7. Dealings ended yesterday. ©Conango day Monday. Settlement day September 28. 30-day forward rates are permitted on the previous day's close. But adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	100	100	100	10	10	10

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	100	100	100	10	10	10

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
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100	100	100	100	10	10	10

High	Low	Company	Price	Div	Yld	P/E
100	100	100	100	10	10	10

Portfolio

PLATINUM

© Times Newspapers Limited
WEEKLY DIVIDEND
£4,000
Claims required for £240 points
Claimants should ring 0254-55272

No.	Share value	Div	Yld	P/E
176	Wm Low	10	10	10
177	Wilson (C)	10	10	10
LEISURE				
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537	122 Amusement	213	-	10 10 10 10
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First Place in the Order of Merit and the Peat Prize
Tracey Michelle MacPherson (Price

*Eleventh Place in the Order of Merit and the
Whinney Prize for the Paper on Financial*

Twelfth Place in the Order of Merit
Simon Alexander Willis (KPMG Peat

Fourteenth Place in the Order of Merit
David Jacob Gittleson (Coopers & Lybrand)

Claire Louise Bagshaw (Coopers & Lybrand),

Management 2
Gary Siu-Kwan Sik (Coopers & Lybrand),
Cambridge

Ross & Co), Manchester; Flynn S A (Grant Thornton), Leicester; Folley S Grigg S M (Ernst & Young), Bristol; Grimes D P J (Kidsons Impey), Chester;

Young, Newcastle Upon Tyne; Waterhouse, London; Guest P
Forrester-Rhodes J (KPMG Peat (Peplows), Newton Abbot; Gunning S
Marwick), St Albans; Foster M A W L (Price Waterhouse, Windsor;
(Coopers & Lybrand), Leeds; Foster N Guppy R D (Buzzaconi & Co), London;
(BDO, Brierley, Harbott), London; Gupta R (Harold Evans Wireford).

H
 (Leichlorus), Harrow; Fox J Y (Touche
 Ross & Co), London; Fox N (Clarks),
 Slough; Fox W (Coopers & Lybrand),
 London; France D J (Kidsons Impex),
 London; Francis H A (Price

Halder S B S (KPMG Pear Marwick),
 London; Haigley N S (Coopers &
 Lybrand), Birmingham; Halesworth D

Frost R C (Price Waterhouse), London;
Frost S E (Coopers & Lybrand),
Birmingham; Fryer S M (Caldwell &
Braham), Dartford; Fulford G D
(Ernst & Young), London;
Fullerton J A (KPMG Peat Marwick),
Newcastle Upon Tyne; Halliwell F M
(Ernst & Young), Manchester;

Gac A C (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Gadsby A P (KPMG Peat Marwick), London; Galtsell A C (Coopers & Lybrand), London; Galbraith A E (Coopers & Lybrand), Manchester; Hammond A D (Coopers & Lybrand), Leeds; Handscomb P E (KPMG Peat Marwick), London; Hansford J (Gane Jackson Scott), London; Hanson A M

Gardmung S (Jellicoe & Tordoff).
Manchester; Gandhi S (Levy Gee).
London; Ganguli A (Price Waterhouse).
London; Garbett G S (Garbun &
Elliot). York; Gardener C M (Grani
G F (Price Waterhouse); Goshall (Graving,
G L (Robson Taylor). Bath; Harding S J
(KPMG Peat Marwick). Milton Keynes;
Hardman J M I (KPMG Peat Marwick).
London; Hardy S D (Haines Watts).

Garvey J (Robson Rhodes, London; Marwick). London: Harriman P
Gascoigne P A (Arthur Andersen). (Coopers & Lybrand). Nottingham:
Leeds: Gascoigne R J (KPMG Peat Harris R L (Coopers & Lybrand),
Marwick). London: Gaskell F E (Price Portsmouth: Harrison A P (Leslie Bray
Waterhouse). London: Gate A M & Col. Orlay: Harrison C J J (Spicer &

(Price Waterhouse), Leeds; George D A (Ernst & Young), Birmingham; George S L (Levy Goe), London; Gibbens D L (Robson Rhodes), Birmingham; Gibbons J B (J. B. Gibbons), Bristol; St Helmore & Co., London; Harvey A J (Price Waterhouse), Windsor; Harwood A (Larkings), Maldstone; Hasan R (Tnuche Ross & Co.), London; Hasoon J R C C (Rooke Holt), London; Hasoon J R

(Touche, Ross & Co). London: Waterhouse. London: Hayer A
 Gillibrand M P (Lloyd Piggott). (Whewell & Sudworth). Huddersfield:
 Manchester: Gilmarin M (Arthur Hayer P A (Ernst & Young). London:
 Andersen). London: Ginman-Jones M Hayer R J (Fridle Brewster). London:
 Hayer J B. (Touche, Ross & Co)

(KPMG Peat Marwick), Bristol; Charles S J (Burnett) Swayne, Southampton; Gode M J (Touche Ross & Co), Jersey; Godsil A J (Ernst & Young), London; Gonzalez L (BDO Binder Hamlyn), London; Binder Hamlyn, London; Henshaw K R (Hazlewood), Cheltenham; Henson D R (Apleys), Tiverton; Heppell R E (Pannell Kerr

(KPMG Peat Marwick), Southampton:
Goss R J (Touche Ross & Co), London:
Gontlieb J (KPMG Peat Marwick),
London; Gough D A (Arthur
Anderson), London; Gradden A J (Price
M J (Slay Hayward), London; Hicks S I
(BDO Binder Hamlyn), London.
Higgins P J (Levy Gee), London; Hill G
S (Arthur Anderson), London; Hill R G
(Connors & Lybrand), Croydon; Hill S R

B (BDO Binder Hamlyn),
Birmingham; Gralinger P J
(Callingham Crane), Leatherhead;
Grant A (Flinn-Keiley & Chapman),
Leamington; Gray G (Touche Ross & Co.),
London; H (KPMG Real Marwick), Leeds; Hiscocks
A G (Lonsdale & Marsh), Liverpool; Ho
A M L (Price Waterhouse), London;
Hobbs C P (Hobson, Phillips &
Sharnell), Nottingham; Hobbs D M

Birmingham: Grayson B (Nash Broad
Wesson), London: Green E M (Ledbury
Marlin), Trowbridge: Green N A
(Fehon & Co), Kidderminster: Green P J
(Dawell & Co), Farnham, London: Green
Hodgeson C R (Touche Ross & Co),
Leeds: Hodgeson A C (Touche Ross &
Co), Birmingham: Hodgeson C R
(Longcroft), Sullon: Hodgeson M J
(Baker Tilm), Bradford: Hoefler J A

Gregory S J (Coopers & Lybrand),
 Lybriidge; Gregson L M (Coopers &
 Lybrand), Sheffield; Grewal H (Robson
 Rhodes), Rochester; Grewal R S
 (Paul, London; Hayward, London; Holland L J
 (Touche Ross & Co), Bristol; Holliday A
 S (Kiddsons, Impey), Birmingham;
 Holliday N (Grant Thornton),
 Manchester; Holloway T R (KPMG Peat

(Price Waterhouse, Birmingham; Lybrand; Manchester; Hoong C. I.)

CAROL LEONARD ment shared responsibility 30 Temple Fortune Lane, NW11

Chester: Home N J (Hacker
 ung). London: Horner K R (KPMG
 Al Marwick). Norwich: Horrocks A
 M & Young). London: Hosking J A
 G. Watlington. London: Hornth
 Learnmonth C J (Coopers & Lybrand).
 London: Leahy C M (Kelsall Steele).
 Cambrige: Lee H M L (Touche Ross &
 Co). Bracknell: Lee K H (Coopers &
 Lybrand). London: Lee T C M (Clart

Wells D W (Haines Wans),
Wingshake House A F (Morris
Men. Swindon: Huggell A
Womers & Lybrand. Cambridge:
Womers M (Lybrand Bertha Cambridge
Leighs M (KPMG Pear Marwick).
Birmingham: Lemon A M (Jennings
Johnson), Sunderland, Lemon J M
(Touche Ross & Co), Bristol, Leon G C
(Coopers & Lybrand), London, Lee C

Hunt, Adam A J (Kings Peak)
T J (Arthur Andersen), London; Lewis C
C E (Wallace Crooke & Co), Walsall, Leics
Hunt B J
Womersley & Lybrand), London; Hunter
I H (Arthur Andersen), London;
(BDO Binder Hamlyn), London;
Lewington P I (Touche Ross & Co),
London; Lewis C A (Donald Reid & Co),

Lightfoot K J (Price Waterhouse), Leeds.
Lillywhite A J (BDO Binder Hamlin), St
Albans; Lim A S K (Buzzaon & Co),
London; Lim C H (Touche Ross & Co),
London; Lim K H (Garrers), Kingston.

Klanklands Bunkert, Bristol: 1946: 5 L
Hayward), London: 1946: 5 L
hur Andersen), London: 1946: 5 L
Cooper & Lybrand), Birmingham

Son S C (Dunion Moore Aikin
 beti. Hull; Jafanan A (Touche Ross
 Co. London; Jain K (Touche Ross &
 Co. London; James A C (Rawlinson &
 nien. Ewell; James A T T (Coopers &
 Birmingham; Long M L (Pinky.
 Kelih Gibbs & Co., Uxbridge.
 Longbottom C M S (Clark Whitehill
 Josolyne. Leeds; Longman N W
 (Touche Ross & Co) Cramley; Lonsdale

Peal Marwick, Manchester; Lovelock S
 M (Price Waterhouse, London; Lovesey
 J H (Price Waterhouse, London; Low
 E F (Coopers & Lybrand), London
 Love, A E (Price & Young), London

Leung Y O P (Hamiltons), Staines
 Lund S (Garbutt & Elliott), York
 Lundie M (Pannell Kerr Forsyth
 London: Lynagh C E (KPMG Pea

nsonie J M (KPMG Peat Marwick).
 mbridge: Johnstone M R (Grant
 ernion), London: Jolley E A (Ernst &
 ung), London: Jones A B (Ernst &
 ung), London: Jones A B (Moore
 & Lybrand), Manchester: McAra D
 (KPMG Peat Marwick), Nottingham:
 Macaulay M J (KPMG Peat Marwick),
 Brighton: Maclean D (Touche Ross

Bristol: Jones C P (Ernst & Young).
London: Jones F G (Arthur Andersen).
Manchester: Jones G A (Price
Waterhouse). Bristol: Jones J M (Ernst
& Young).

(Price Waterhouse), London: McClure,
R J (BDO Binder Hamlyn). St Albans:
McCrea P A (Stoy Hayward
Manchester: McCreey S A (Touch
Pee & Co., Cambridge). McCreay K

N. Manchester: Jones S N (Ernst & Young). Sheffield: Jones S P (Coopers & Lybrand). Cardiff: Jones S R (BDO). Under Hamlyn. London: Jones V G (PMG). Peal Marwick. Reading: Southampton: McDonnell S G (KPMG). Peal Marwick. Reading: Mace S (Price, Bailey). Norwich: McEwing J (Touche Ross & Co.). London: McFadden L K (Stoy Hayward).

Takouillis P K (Touche Ross & Co.)
London: Kalsi B K (Crane &
Partners), Bromley; Kanani A (Pannell
Fort Forester), London; Kane G M (Price
Waterhouse), Leeds; Kang A S (Price
Waterhouse), London; Kaur J (Kaur,
Kaur & Associates), London; Kaye R
J (Ernst & Young), Southampton;
McGurk S P (Lonsdale & Marsh),
Liverpool; McHugh P A (Coopers &
Lybrand), Manchester; McKenna J G M
(Coopers & Lybrand), Southampton;

Touche Ross & Co. London; Keepax S
 Baker Tilley, Bromley; Keighley S V
 (Ernst & Young), Leeds; Kelland D
 PMG Peat Marwick, London; Kellen
 & Fisher, Edinburgh; Sheldrick & Kelly
 E L (Touche Ross & Co. London;
 Maclean F J (Price Waterhouse)
 London; McLucas A T (Ernst & Young)
 London; McNab D J (Price
 Waterhouse, London; Moshkin, K. I.

MEBOUX *N. M.* (PRICE WATERHOUSE). LEEDS:
London: Madeley J. E. (ARTHUR)
Andersen, Leeds: Maheswaran R. P. R.
(Ernst & Young), Luton: Makin P. D.
(Cooper-Parry), Walsow: Sower & Colclough
(Marwick). London: Kennedy S.

at Marwick, Reading: Khanke J A
 pouche Ross & Col. Milton Keynes;
 Nawaja H (Simmons Cohen Fine).
 London; Khinda R (Coopers &
 Lybrand). Liverpool; Khumi V (Price
 Beckman), London; Manfield W
 (Rothman) Pantall & Col. Eastleigh;
 Manfredi C (Coopers & Lybrand).
 Newcastle Upon Tyne; Mann R
 (Miller A C D). Wickham; Manning D

ington: S P (Touche Ross & Co), Bristol;
 London: D J (KPMG Peat Marwick),
 London: King M (Neville Russell),
 London: King N I (Pannell Kerr
 Forster), Cardiff; Kirk A C (KPMG Peat
 Marwick), London; R A (Coopers & Lybrand), Bristol; Mar
 R F (KPMG Peat Marwick), Preston;
 Marley S P (Colman, Whitaker &
 RSCow), Lancaster; Marmon M
 (KPMG Peat Marwick), Guildford

London: Koumli G (Touche Ross & Co).
Liverpool: Kuypers M (Ernst & Young).
Reading

aldlaw J R (Ernst & Young), London;
aldin M A (Price Waterhouse),
London; Lai-Pai-Fong S (Arram Beryn
Gardner), London; Lake T C (Charlton
Middlesbrough; Mason W (Ernst
Young), London; Massey D E (Coope
& Lybrand), Birmingham; Matheka J
(Ernst & Young), London; Matheson A

London: Lancashire A F (Price
Waterhouse). Birmingham:
Landisman M J (Lewis Alkin & Co.
London: Lane A C (Dove Nalshi,
S J (Touche Ross & Co). London: May
A (KPMG Peat Marwick). London:
Mayhew R J (Coopers & Lybrand).
Southampton. Mayne P J (KPMG Peat

Landsdown M W (Geo Unle, Sebire &
(Co). London; Larkos M (Ernst &
'Young). London; Larsson A E (Touche
& Co). London; Latham P J
(Kingsion-Upon-Thames; Meehan,
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Course work in the exam debate

Should accountants adopt popular methods to go modern?
Edward Fennell considers arguments that worry the profession

Qualifications attract controversy the way politicians attract scandal. Media mileage can be gained by exposing supposed cover-ups and conspiracies. The recent disputes about GCSEs and A levels are the latest examples but even the Institute of Chartered Accountants has had its share of wrangling. In particular, the argument about "quotas" continues to rumble. The institute is accused of decking in advance to allow only a certain percentage of candidates to pass its exams. The institute has always denied the charge and there is no significant evidence for it. Of course, for those disappointed with today's results a conspiracy theory has its attractions.

However, although the institute can feel confident about its present arrangements, there are developments that are worrying it. To maintain the prestige of its qualifications the institute must ensure that they embody high standards, are consistent, and continue to serve the profession's needs. At the same time it must keep in step with developments elsewhere in the qualification field.

Curiously enough, the recent GCSE debate sets the scene. The inclusion of "course work" in GCSE has stirred up a hornets' nest but it represents a common trend in qualifications. Professional examining bodies of all types, including the institute, are under pressure to adopt a system in which day-to-day work is assessed for qualifications. After all, it could be legitimately claimed that an individual's performance on "real work" is a better guide to competence.

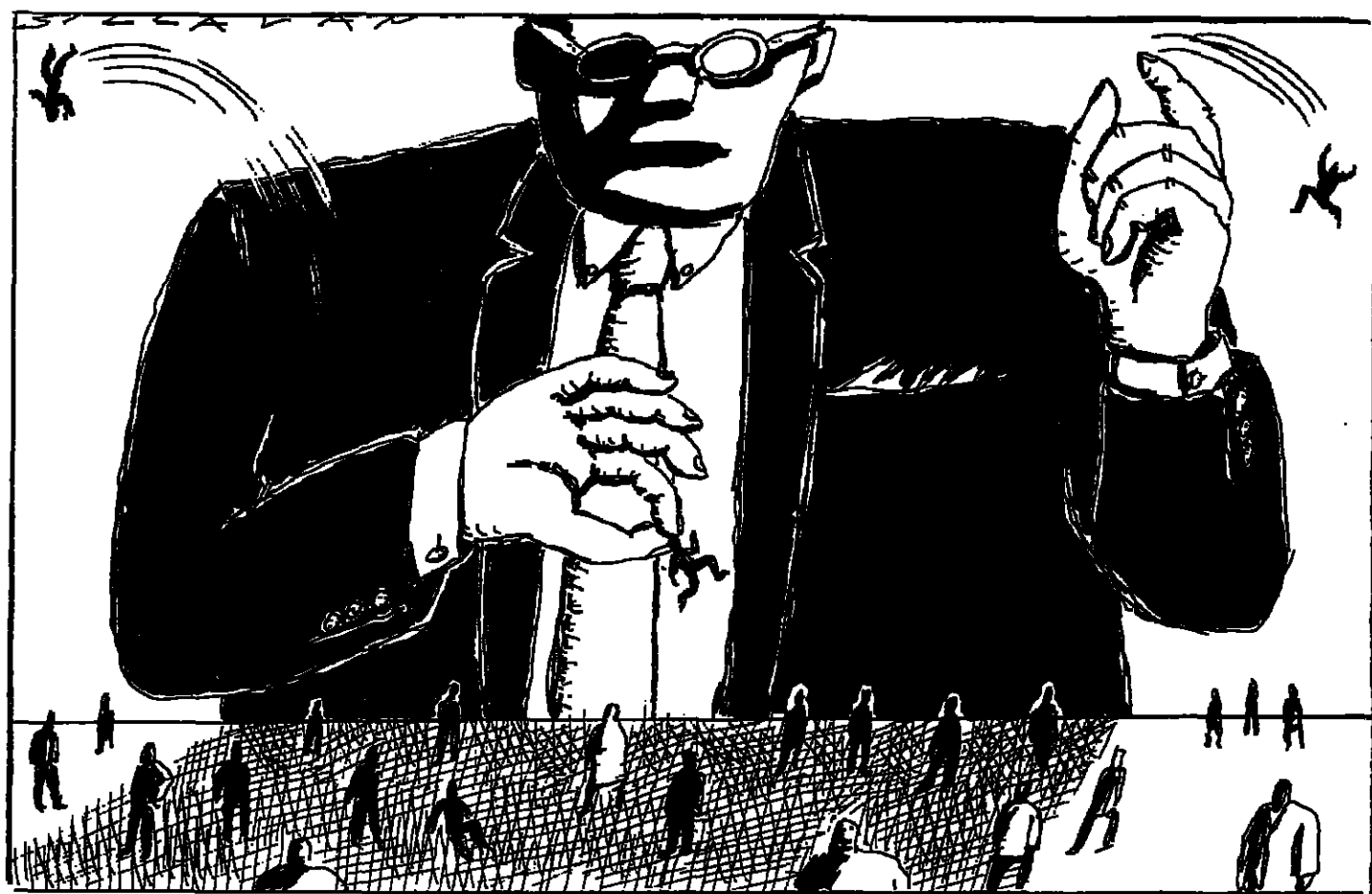
So the institute has conducted a study to see whether course work, or "work-based assessment", as it is called, could be incorporated into its qualification system. The outcome of the study, just released, is likely to satisfy nobody. On the one hand, the study shows that work-based assessment is feasible. On the other, it emphasises, like the schools' inspections over GCSE, that there are difficulties in ensuring the consistency of the exam room.

The problem is how to monitor the assessors. Already the institute has a system of approving training officers so that trainees receive proper supervision and education. It is a short step from supervision to

assessment, some say, and there is no reason why they should not gain some of their qualification as well as work experience "on the job". Education and training standards, however, inevitably vary from firm to firm and if assessment standards vary too, qualifications could fall into disrepute.

The drive to ensure that the institute modernises its awards without compromising quality will continue. For example, "standards of competence" for accountants have now been defined in detail. Paul Masters, the training partner at Price Waterhouse and the chairman of the institute's qualifications steering group, says it is now a question of how these standards can be incorporated into the present exam-based system.

Within the past week a new set of guidelines on work experience for trainees has been published. This is not some pet-fogging bureaucratic detail. Areas of experience that would not have been admitted in the past are now being given status as important parts of the accountant's work. This



reflects changes in the accountant's role and the real world of the economy in which we live.

Most important is that, for the first time insolvency work has been endorsed as a suitable area of work experience. When insolvency was a minor activity it could, perhaps, be ignored. Today it is too important to disregard and time spent on

liquidations, receiverships and putting companies into administration will now count towards work experience.

On a positive note, the institute has decided to give full weight to time spent on information technology. Advanced computer systems are the indispensable tool of the trade and providing IT services for

clients is now a vital skill. The other important change being introduced is that for the first time the institute is laying down minimum periods of time for key areas. Various routes have been specified but what is likely to attract plenty of comment is that a minimum of just 20 weeks' accounting and audit experience is

being required in the whole training period. "I think that people will express amazement that in their training to be chartered accountants only 20 weeks of accountancy and auditing experience is mandatory," says Phil Armitage, who looks after the institute's education policy. "But in the past we had no minimum period at all."

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The fear factor enters club rugby

Bath remain team to beat as clubs battle for survival

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE battle of competitive dice will be heard up and down England today, as Courage Clubs Championship, Pilkington Cup and Provincial Insurance Cup whirl into action for the first time this season. By the time April arrives, it will have become, for some, a death rattle in the most intense season of competition the country has known.

The investment that amateur rugby clubs now make in the game, in terms of time, expertise and money, is hard to quantify. That strains exist for old-style administrators have been amply illustrated by events at Bath this week, while a leading club administrator in the Midlands proffers the view that this season will see the demise of the traditional club official.

In the top flight the stakes are high. Clubs who have refurbished their grounds and playing squads, and attracted new sponsors upon whom they will have an increasing dependency, dread the possibility of relegation and decreasing crowds. Yet the streamlining of the national leagues at the end of this season ensures that some famous names must go down.

Next season the adoption of home-and-away in the national leagues means divisions of ten clubs each rather than 13. Thus four clubs descend from the first division, seven from the second and eight from the third into a new fourth division.

Pity the players and referees as they grapple with the new laws in this atmosphere. "Problems come with the ball on the ground and that is where we will have the biggest difficulty," Geoff Cooke, the England team manager, said. Referees will find themselves allowing more time for possession to be won from loose play.

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) has written to its top ten referees stressing particular aspects of law, including release of the ball in the tackle and the need for the tackler to roll away if he can. "Players must be acutely aware of the laws and what the referees interpret as a foul," Don Rutherford, the RFU technical director, said. "Referees must talk to players so that they can tune in to what is required."

Andy Robinson, captain for the second season of Bath, the league champions, appreciates the problem for officials. "The ones I have talked to are worried about the new laws and have to discover how they will work," he said. But he and

his colleagues will make their own adaptations. "We can go even further: the new laws suit us," Robinson said.

Both Bath and their opponents today, Harlequins, will be pragmatic in their approach to selection, which may cause an eyebrow to be lifted in some quarters. There is a belief that Harlequins are far too ready to trim their XV to suit the requirements of their international players, thus cheapening league results.

Jamie Salmon, the Harlequins director of coaching, has laid down the principle of selection on form: Robinson has no worries in that respect because he believes the reserves Bath will create the pressure on first-choice players to perform.

Bath's reserve back row, for example, consists of John Hall, David Egerton and Gareth Adams, the first two senior internationals, the last an Under-21 cap. "The only time we haven't won anything in the last eight years is 1988 and no one wants to be a member of the Bath team that starts losing," said Robinson, who will miss today's match with a hamstring injury.

"Harlequins were the best side we played last year [the two clubs shared a league draw and Bath won an epic Pilkington Cup final in extra time]. Both games were played at international pace."

"You have to be wary of Northampton, while I wonder how Orrell will adapt to the new laws. I was impressed with the way Leicester played against England and it looked to me as though having Dean Richards in the second row was a bonus."

But do not hasten to bet against Bath. Gareth Chilcott, who denied yesterday that he was in line for the vacant chairman's post, is playing pantomime in Bath this Christmas, and though his role in *Cinderella* is that of the money-lender, the prop may yet have access to the fairy godmother's magic wand.

Tony Jorden, the former England full back, has succeeded Graham Smith as the London Division's chairman of selectors. Smith has his hands full as manager of England B, so Jorden will manage and coach London, with Phil Keith-Roach, of Rosslyn Park, as his assistant.

Gordons" — although the changed understanding of the adjective has caused some grief to Randwick who have had to apologise to Sydney's homosexual community for innuendo contained on televised signs in their club dressing room.

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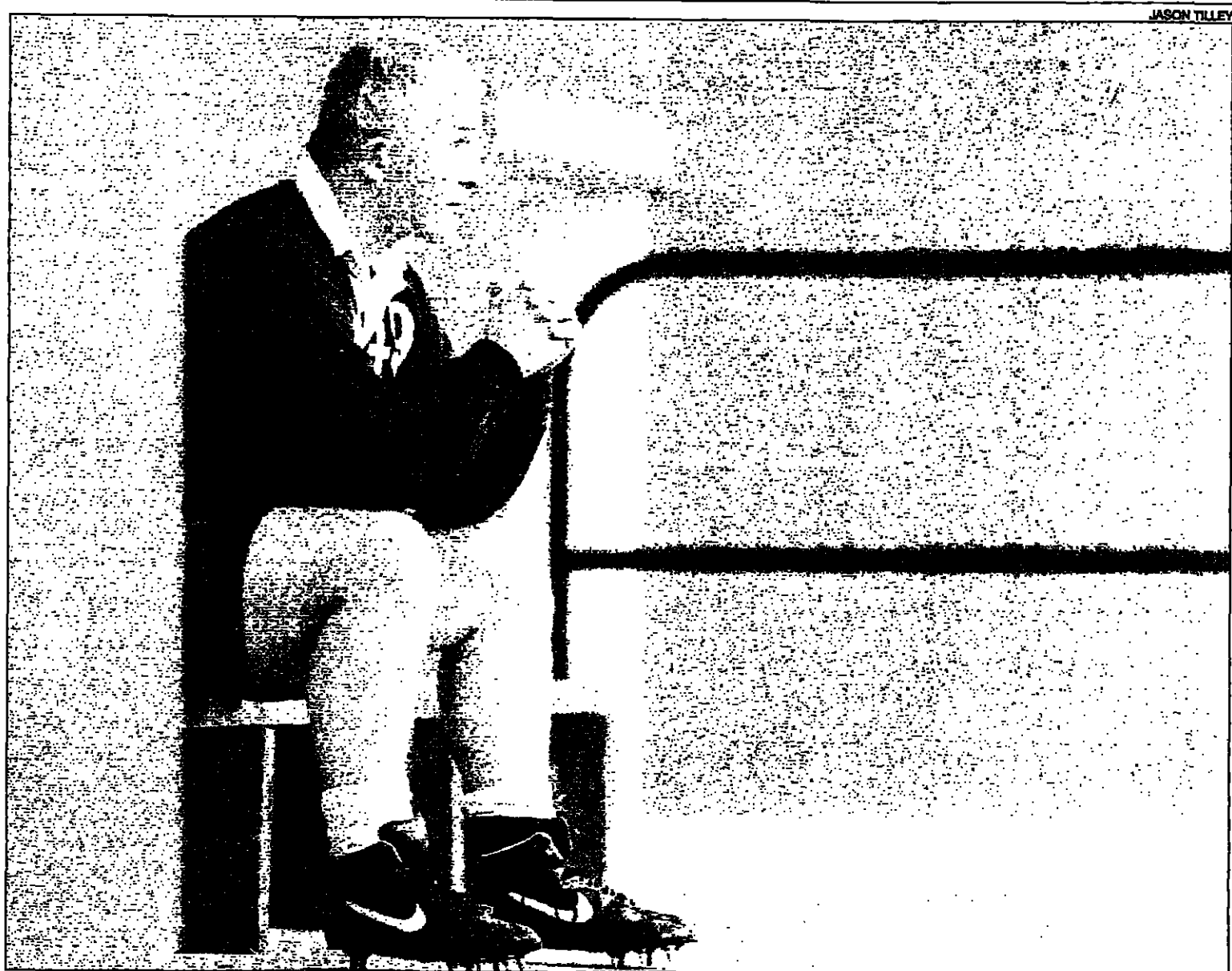
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Beggars for punishment: absorbing the knocks when playing is far different from running up hills or doing weights, Blakeway says

Blakeway comes back to the future

By MICHAEL AUSTIN

RUGBY life. Phil Blakeway says, has begun at the age of 41 — with amended laws, a new club, Moseley, and his league debut in the Courage Clubs Championship second division match against Bedford at The Reddings today.

Blakeway, the tight-head prop and scrumming cornerstone of England's grand slam team 12 years ago, said: "I have had such a long break, it is like starting all over again. I am as excited about the season as Moseley's younger players."

This is Blakeway's third comeback, seven years after winning his nineteenth England cap against Ireland and suffering a pinched nerve in the neck which consigned his

playing career to the record books, or so it seemed.

The busy sideboards have long disappeared but Blakeway is 11 pounds lighter, at 15st 10lb, than in his prime, and scarcely looks a day older. "Keeping old age at bay is one reason for playing again," he said.

"More seriously, I thoroughly enjoy the game and was pleased Moseley asked me to help in whatever capacity I could. It would not have mattered whether that was proping for one of the lower teams or coaching the colts. I am now doing both."

Blakeway works in the family fruit wholesaling business. He said: "I have kept myself fit. I have never smoked, I cannot remember the last time I had an

alcoholic drink and I train every day with Mike Teague. "Even so, I am taking it step by step. Absorbing the knocks when playing is still far different from running up hills in the Forest of Dean or doing weights four times a week."

When Moseley acquired Teague, the England No. 8, Blakeway basically went with him for the ride. "I do not want to play for sentimental reasons, but because Moseley think I can do the job. If I am not selected, then fair enough, I understand," Blakeway said.

Blakeway, like Teague a British Isles and former Gloucester player, returned for the match against Wasps a fortnight ago. Both club and player were well satisfied with the outcome, despite the demanding pace of the game. Blakeway propped alongside Dean Ball, 21, who asked him when he had first played. "Before you were born," Blakeway said. "So Dean said to me, 'Come on, our dad'."

"There is no doubt the game is quicker and much better under the modified laws. The dinosaurs are dead because you have to be fit, mobile and be innovators to survive. To retain possession, the ball has to be kept moving, scrummages are over much sooner and the metre gap between players in the lineout gives the best jumpers an improved chance to win the ball without interference."

"The best tactical kickers will also profit. The ball cannot be booted off the field because the opposition can now take a quick throw and you are back to square one."

Blakeway believes Moseley have rich potential for promotion. "There is a first-team squad of 36. As for Mike [Teague], he would be in my England team. After eight months' absence, he is fit again and exceptionally strong. I know because I train with him."

Blakeway has scored three-point tries, and some four-point ones when the scoring values were changed 21 years ago. "I could wait a long time for a five-point try," he said. "But if I manage one, it will have to be from a swerving run three feet away from the line."

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CLUB-BY-CLUB GUIDE TO THE FIRST DIVISION

Bath

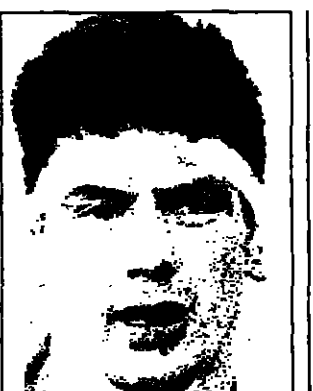
Captain: Andy Robinson. Coach: Jack Rowell.
Record: 1992: League champions; Pilkington Cup winners. League: 1988, 4th; 1989, 1st; 1990, 3rd; 1991, 1st.

Transfers: In: O'Leary (Wasps), Hilton (Bristol), Raymond (Aldershot), Cottrell (Clifton). Out: Fallon (rugby league), Willett (Bristol).
Prospects: Must be favoured to retain the league title for their consistency and the strength in depth of their squad. Most difficult matches likely to be at Northampton and Gloucester.

Bristol

Captain: Derek Eves. Coach: Rob Cunningham.
Record: 1992: League, 10th; Pilkington Cup quarter-finals. League: 1988, 9th; 1989, 7th; 1990, 9th; 1991, 11th.

Transfers: In: Armstrong (Plymouth Albion), Griffin (Richmond), Savernut (Northampton), Sharp (Clifton), Willett (Bath). Out: Hilton (Bath).
Prospects: Bristol need a good start to their league season to engender confidence in a young but developing squad. They must settle on an effective half-back partnership and hope to find a good goalkicker now that Francois du Preez has had to return to South Africa.



Ian Smith: leading Gloucester's challenge

Gloucester

Captain: Ian Smith. Coach: Keith Richardson.
Record: 1992: League, 4th; Pilkington Cup: semi-finals. League: 1988, 5th; 1989, 2nd; 1990, 2nd; 1991, 6th.

Transfers: In: None. Out: Dunn (Worcester), Harlin (London Welsh), Marmont (Bedford), Pary (Moseley), Scovens (London Welsh), Teague (Moseley), Williams (Moseley).
Prospects: Inevitably the first horses of the first division: if you do well

against Gloucester, especially at Kingsholm, it is a feather in the cap. Naturally Gloucester supporters want more than that, but may have to make do with a mid-table position.

Harlequins

Captain: Peter Winterbottom. Coach: Jamie Salmon.
Record: 1992: League, 8th; Pilkington Cup: finalists. League: 1988, 3rd; 1989, 8th; 1990, 7th; 1991, 3rd.

Transfers: In: Boucena (Régates), S Davies (Rosslyn Park), M Evans (Rosslyn Park), Roux (Northern Transvaal), Snow (Henri's FF). Out: Halsey (retired), Johnston (Richmond), Skinner (Blackheath).

Prospects: Potentially capable of beating any other club. Have a wealth of playing talent, but national demands have a more unsettling effect than for Bath, who face similar demands. If they make up their mind that the league is more significant than the cup, they could win it.

Leicester

Captain: John Wells. Coach: Ian Smith.
Record: 1992: League, 6th; Pilkington Cup: semi-finals. League: 1988, 1st; 1989, 6th; 1990, 5th; 1991, 4th.

Transfers: In: Cockerill (Coventry), Kilford (Nottingham), Potter (Nottingham). Out: Anacough (Orrell), T Smith (Bedford).

Prospects: Capable club pack, though short of in-out strength and fall into the hard-to-beat category rather than title contenders. Decision-making at half back will be a critical factor in success to bring the best out of a back division of some potential.

London Irish

Captain: Jim Staples. Coach: Hika Reid.
Record: 1992: League, 9th; Pilkington Cup: third round. League: 1988, 8th; 1989, 8th; 1990, 5th; 1991, 2nd.

Transfers: In: Hall (Northampton), Robinson (Ballymore), R Smith (Blackheath). Out: Clancy (Lansdowne).

Prospects: A late run ensured first division survival last season and better support with national selectors may help. New Zealand presence on the coaching staff will be watched with interest for the effect it may have on some talented players.

London Scottish

Captain: Richard Cramb. Coach: Alastair McHarg.
Record: 1992: League, second division champions; Pilkington Cup: (fourth round). League: 1988 (2nd div), 7th; 1989 (2nd div), 11th; 1990 (3rd div), 1st; 1991 (2nd div), 5th.

Transfers: In: Beddoe (Harlequins), Eriksson (Harlequins), Mair (Cambridge University). Out: Beazley (retired).

Prospects: This could be a long and difficult season for Scottish in the top flight, their leading players having to cope with national squad demands. Will not be short of fitness but must accustom themselves to the pace of the first division game and the strength of opposing packs.

Northampton

Captain: John Oliver. Coach: Glenn Ross.
Record: 1992: League, 3rd; Pilkington Cup: fourth round. League: 1988 (2nd div), 12th; 1989 (2nd div), 3rd; 1990 (2nd div), 1st; 1991, 9th.

Transfers: In: Alston (Bedford), Beal (High Wycombe), D Jones (Llanelli), Rensell (Bedford), Ward (Gloucester Wanderers), Walton (Newcastle Gosforth). Out: Hall (London Irish).

Prospects: Dark horses for the league title but face testing games at Orrell and Harlequins. Back division starting to take on an exciting look to complement undoubted forward strength but much may hinge on Steele's generalship at stand-off.

Orrell

Captain: Steve Taberner. Coach: Billy Lyon.
Record: 1992: League, 2nd; Pilkington Cup: semi-finals. League: 1988, 5th; 1989, 5th; 1990, 8th; 1991, 5th.

Transfers: In: Ainscough (Leicester), Hamer (Vale of Lure), Richeligh (Fylde). Out: None.

Prospects: Desperately anxious to dislodge the perennial bridesmaid tag. They came close last season, but need a broader all-round game and may lack in-out presence. Kinnis and Cusani remain absent.

Rugby

Captain: David Bishop. Coach: Alan Foster.
Record: 1992: League, 11th; Pilkington Cup: third round. League: 1988 (fourth division north), 1st; 1989 (third division), 2nd; 1990 (second division), 6th; 1991 (second division), 1st.

Transfers: In: Bromley (Liverpool St Helens), K Jones (Blackheath). Out: Manu (New Zealand), Cooper (Munster).

Prospects: Despite surge from fourth to first division while the league has been in operation, look lightweight in the top flight. Club has a reputation for being able to turn on the occasional good display but will not be enough.

Saracens

Captain: Brian Davies. Coach: John Davies.
Record: 1992: League, 5th; Pilkington Cup: fourth round. League: 1988 (2nd div), 3rd; 1989 (2nd div), 1st; 1990, 4th; 1991, 10th.

Transfers: In: Clarke (Blackheath), Dosselt (Loughborough University), Hamer (Vale of Lure), Richeligh (Fylde), Rode (Italy).



Sean O'Leary: hoping to impress at Bath

Prospects: Remarkably consistent record since attaining first division status. Repeatedly under-rated and could benefit from the new laws. Greater strength in depth this season but lack of in-out presence may be significant.

Wasps

Captain: Dean Ryan. Coach: Rob Smith.
Record: 1992: League, 7th; Pilkington Cup: fourth round. League: 1988, 2nd; 1989, 3rd; 1990, 1st; 1991, 2nd.

Transfers: In: Dunn (Gloucester), Greenwood (Nottingham), Holmes (Rosslyn Park), Thompson (Rosslyn Park). Out: Allen (Richmond), Hornung (Richmond), O'Leary (Bath).

Prospects: Last season was their worst since formation of league and no obvious reasons for a significant improvement. Lias Saracens, likely to get by on good organisation rather than challenge for the main prizes.

West Hartlepool

Captain: John Stabler. Coach: Dave Stubbs.
Record: 1992: League (second division), 2nd; Pilkington Cup: third round. League (third division) 1988, 2nd; 1989, 4th; 1990, 3rd; 1991, 1st.

Transfers: In: Bythe (Waterloo), Lavery (Blackheath), Jones (West London IRE), Watson (Army), Westgarth (Northern). Out: Pook (Aberavon), Robinson (Darlington).

Prospects: Orrell have found the knack of surviving in the first division, and West Hartlepool must do the same. Big pack and quick wings but Stabler's authority and goal-kicking will be crucial, notably in away games, where northern teams notoriously come unstuck against top-ranked opponents.

Compiled by David Hands

Wales look to lighten players' burden

GERALD DAVIES

THE conflicting demands of club obligations and national service have never presented a real dilemma in the past for Welsh rugby. A club might have had a quiet moan about their outstanding performer being away in the international arena for so long, but it would only have been privately, among friends. Wales always came first.

But now that a fully fledged league is flourishing, and points are to be won or lost, priorities may be perceived to have changed. Clubs, week in, week out, have their futures laid on the line.

This is something that worries Robert Norster, the Wales manager, and Alan Davies, the coach. Their concern is whether, in a season congested with league and cup matches, players can find the time to prepare for international matches. The clubs' concern is whether they can afford to let them.

Between October 7 and the end of the season, Welsh players will be asked to don one form or another on 13 separate occasions, from the under-21 side to the senior team. This will include an East Wales v

West Wales match after Christmas.

In addition to matches at weekends, there will inevitably emerge, as is the fashion, innumerable other gatherings to prepare, train and monitor the members of these squads. All of which will not only place demands on the players, but also on the clubs, which have increasingly strenuous programmes to fulfil. And to survive.

On Monday, Norster and Davies will choose the national squad, from which the senior and B teams will be selected.

In the past, it was fairly straightforward," Norster said. "Because there was only the five nations' championship, the club year could be planned easily around it. But this season, for instance, we have matches against Italy, Australia, two Wales B matches and an under-21 game before Christmas. After that, we have the championship, as well as the Hong Kong and world sevens competitions. While the Lions are in New Zealand in the sum-

mer, Wales will be touring either Zimbabwe or Namibia. These have to be planned and prepared during a full domestic league and cup programme.

"We had a meeting recently with the league and competitions committee of the Welsh Rugby Union to discuss all these matters and to present to them details of the month-by-month breakdown of all the commitments of our



Norster: concerned

senior and B international players. We needed to explain what kind of commitment this was.

"The committee has its domestic responsibilities just as we have our responsibilities to Welsh rugby's international commitments. We all need to be aware of these. For the good of Welsh rugby it is important that we dovetail our respective interests. Despite our seemingly different priorities, I felt very encouraged at the end. We all agreed that we are fighting a losing battle if we don't see Wales in the forefront of our thinking."

Norster accepts that there is not going to be an easy solution. The demands will increase.

"We presented our plans, which lead up to the next World Cup," he said. "This means a prolonged period of matches for Wales, in order to qualify. We all agreed that everything must be done to assist Wales to reach the final stages. But in saying that, each committee representative is aware of the need of his own club to survive in the domestic league competition."

Red letter day for Leeds club

THE road to Twickenham begins today for the unsmiling majority of England's clubs, the county cup winners who participate in the first round of the Pilkington Cup with its climax on May Day, and the 506 entrants for the Provincial Insurance Cup, whose final is on April 3 (David Hands writes).

Nine clubs make their first appearance in the Pilkington Cup, of whom two — Westcombe Park and Old Blues — play each other. It will be the first appearance in competition of the new Leeds club, the product of the amalgamation of Headingley and Roundhay, who help Sedgley Park celebrate their diamond jubilee season.

The most famous name in the first round, London Welsh, play Havant on Rosslyn Park's ground at Roehampton. Old Deer Park being snail given over to cricket. The greatest tension is likely to be occasioned by the game at Camberme, who entertain Redruth, from just down the road. The visitors, of the third division, should be favourites.

Courage championship

First division

Bath v Harlequins
Bath lack the injured Robinson but give O'Leary his league debut at lock and Adeboyo plays his first senior game for a year on the wing after damaging ligaments. New recruits Evans (centre) and Snow (w) make clubs for Harlequins, who are without internationals Winterbottom, Leonard and Edwards.

L Irish v Leicester
The Ireland No. 8, Robinson, makes his first appearance for the Irish, as does Hall at lock, with Cobbe at stand-off. Rory Underwood returns on Leicester's wing with brother Tony moving to the right. Richards continues at lock.

L Scottish v Gloucester
Scottish field five internationals on their only trip to the first division and include newcomers Eriksson at centre and Mair at hooker. Injury to Matthews forces Gloucester to move Tim Smith from full back to stand-off, with Knox making a league debut at flanker instead of the injured Ashmead.

Northampton v Bristol
The much-heralded Beal plays full back for Northampton in the absence of Hunter, but Bayfield (lock) and Redder (flanker) are fit. Bristol put together a new half-back pairing in Bracken and May, the former Coombe Down stand-off, while Armstrong plays his first league game at flanker and Blackmore his first senior game of the season at lock.

Second division

Leeds v Wakefield
Leeds, encouraged by their first win at Newbridge in ten years, ring the changes with Lewis (full back), Williams (wing) and Nick Griffiths (stand-off) joining the back division. Buckle plays his first game in Meesteg's back row, where Powell comes in at flanker, and both wings change.

Brigend v Neath
Brigend give a debut at lock to Jenkins but Bradshaw has recovered from a head wound to play full back. Paul Jones, from Brigend, a Welsh youth cap, plays No. 8 for Neath, who play Phillips (hooker) and Bridges (scrum half) on rota. Singler remains at full back in the continued absence of the injured

Thorburn, who has yet to play this season.

Cardiff v Newbridge
Oswin Williams plays his first game in Cardiff's back row with Taylor moving to the flank against a side they have not beaten in four league encounters. But Newbridge suffered injury problems in defeat against Aberavon, losing three players.

Newport v Llanelli
Newport have George, their captain, fit once more and Arthur partners Allen at lock. Moon hopes to have recovered from tonsillitis to lead Llanelli, who have Phil Davies replacing Gary Jones at lock and Lyn Jones at flanker. In their opening two games Llanelli have scored 97 points.

Pontypool v Pontypridd
Both clubs are looking for their first league win. Pontypool needing greater forward consistency to lead their young backs. Pontypridd, who did the double last season over Pontypool, change their wings to bring in Roberts and Pritchard. Gary Jones moves to stand-off with Phil John (hooker) joining Powell in the front row.

Swansea v SW Police
Swansea move Tilly to stand-off, his original position, because of hamstring injuries to Williams and Stefan Jones. Weatherley is at scrum half and Keogh at centre, while Jenkins, the international hooker, returns against a Police side which has conceded 83 points in two league games.

Third division

Aberavon v Maesteg
Aberavon, encouraged by their first win at Newbridge in ten years, ring the changes with Lewis (full back), Williams (wing) and Nick Griffiths (stand-off) joining the back division. Buckle plays his first game in Meesteg's back row, where Powell comes in at flanker, and both wings change.

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Mansell may regret driving such a hard bargain



Stewart precedent

By RODDY FORSYTH

AS FAST tracks go, there is nothing in motor racing to surpass the Indy Car World Series, but as a career move for Nigel Mansell it is the equivalent of a rapid drop down through the gears.

Since the Formula One world champion is reported to have asked to have his pay increased from £6 million to £10 million a year, only for Williams-Renault to suggest that it should be cut by half, it is understandable that Mansell was disenchanted. What is much less fathomable is Mansell's assumption that the top earner makes around £1.75 million, the most attractive option.

Jim Crawford, born in Dunfermline but now based in Florida, and a popular figure on the Indy circuit which he has driven for 19 years, believes that Mansell has not applied his finely-tuned mastery of timing on this occasion.

"When he says he still wants to compete and win, I understand exactly what he is talking about because racing really is in a driver's blood," Crawford said yesterday, "but he can come here and do it any time he chooses, whereas to give up Formula One when you are the best in the world is a crying shame."

"Only he knows exactly what he objects to in the way he has been treated, but I must say if I wanted to make

a point in his position, I would sign up with McLaren or Ferrari and hope that they come up with the technology to beat Williams in Formula One."

"He knows what Indy racing is about, but if he comes to do the circuit he will find that it is a whole new learning curve."

At a glance, there is almost no difference between a Formula One car and its Indy equivalent, but the distinctions quickly become apparent in performance.

When Mansell announced his retirement from Formula One last week at the Italian grand prix in Monza, the race had been won by Ayrton Senna with an average lap speed of 146mph. When

Crawford set the unofficial practice record at the Indy 500 this year, he was moving at 234mph: three times the British motorway speed limit, with 24mph to spare.

A Formula One car weighs a minimum of 1,110lb; Indy drivers have to cope with at least another 440lb of metal. And Indy Cars are more like blunt instruments than rapers. "The cars are very, very similar, but the Indy version is 80 per cent less sophisticated," Crawford said. "They are more basic because we have to run them on so many types of surface and we don't have time to keep changing them or to make adjustments."

To complete a World Series race in Surfers' Paradise, Queensland, in March,

and end at Laguna Seca in Monterey, California, seven months and 16 races later. A driver who makes it through will have mastered an intimidating range of challenges, with the winner taking \$1 million in prize-money, which is split 50-50 with his employers.

There are seven road races, starting at Surfers' Paradise and moving on to Detroit, Portland, Cleveland, Elkhart Lake in Wisconsin — at four miles the longest road course in the United States — Columbus and Laguna Seca. There are street races in Toronto, Vancouver and Long Beach, where the layout is reminiscent of Monaco. And then there are the speedway ovals — Phoenix, India-

napolis, Milwaukee, New England, Michigan and Nazareth.

American speedway spectators are addicted to the spectacle, and what they are hooked on is blood, sweat, tears and high-speed crashes, of which there are many.

The Indy 500 is the richest and fastest motor race in the world, and with 500,000 spectators has an audience to match. No driver is out of sight for long because a typical lap at full speed takes about 40 seconds. At this pace a car would travel from London to Glasgow in 1hr 45min, but racers at the Indianapolis track have to cover a greater distance under rather more monotonous conditions.

However, there are encouraging precedents for Mansell in Jim Clark and Graham Hill, who won at Indianapolis in 1965 and 1966 respectively. Jackie Stewart, too, dabbled with Indy racing — although not for long — and Emerson Fittipaldi is another Formula One veteran who has moved on to the American circuit.

However, Mansell's keenness to make the switch to Indy Car remains perplexing to Crawford. "He might be angry with Williams for his own good reasons, but it's just a job after all," he said. "There are people who would kill to be the Formula One world champion — and that includes quite a few Indy drivers."

Faldo slips to joint 53rd out of 66

Romero sets out his stall in defiance of market leaders

FROM MEL WEBB IN VERSAILLES

EDUARDO Romero, of Argentina, brought the Lancôme Trophy to life yesterday with a second round 67 at St-Nom-La-Brette that gave him a single-stroke lead over the formidable trio of Tony Johnstone, Ian Woosnam and José María Olazábal.

Romero, winner of this tournament in 1989, had an eagle and three birdies to finish on a total of 133, seven under par. Although recognised as one of the most elegant swingers of a club on the European Tour, Romero will be looking nervously over his shoulder as he goes into the third round today. The three men behind him have won £1,029,715 between them this year.

No matter that Woosnam is feeling out of sorts with his game and Olazábal cannot understand why he has scored so well in this event, so

unhappy is he with his form. Players of their calibre do not tend to fade away under the pressure of the closing stages of a tournament.

Romero, meanwhile, tried to concentrate on his own game. He succeeded to a large degree, four-foot putts at the 1st and 4th giving him birdies and taking him to the turn in 33. The low spot in an otherwise faultless round came at the 467-yard 14th, when he drove into the rough and planted his seven-iron second shot into a greenside bunker 160 yards away. The potential for calamity was realised when he failed to escape from the trap at the first time of asking. His second sand-iron stroke skidded to a halt six feet from the pin. Two nervous, stabbing putts later the ball disappeared.

Earlier, Nick Faldo, the

host of pre-tournament favourites, had encountered his own moment of teeth-grinding frustration at the 10th, a not particularly testing par four of 364 yards. Things started well enough with his drive, but started to go wrong when he put his second shot, a pitching wedge, into a bunker to the right of the green.

He failed to get out, underlining again the occasional complaints that have been heard here this week about the excessive amount of sand in the bunkers. He came out at the second but still needed a further chip to put him in putting range. Looking increasingly ratty, as he is prone to do in these situations, he missed from five feet and finally sank the putt for a triple-bogey seven.

Still seething — Faldo finds it difficult at times to accept that he can make the same mistakes as ordinary mortals — he dropped a shot at each of the next two holes as well, and not even a birdie on the long 16th improved his mood.

He was eventually in with 74 for a total of 144, 11 shots behind the leader. It is as well there is no cut in this tournament. Had there been, the world's best golfer, languishing in joint 53rd place in a field of 66, would have missed it by a comprehensive margin.

LEADING SECOND-ROUND SCORES (GB and Ireland shaded): 133: E Romero (Arg), 65, 67, 134; 134: J Johnstone (Sct), 67, 67, 134; 135: J Woosnam (Wls), 68, 67, 135; 136: J Olazábal (Spa), 69, 67, 136; 137: J Faldo (Eng), 69, 68, 137; 138: J Sorenson (Den), 70, 68, 138; 139: J Pate (Eng), 70, 69, 139; 140: J Hume (Sct), 71, 69, 140; 141: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 141; 142: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 142; 143: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 143; 144: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 144; 145: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 145; 146: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 146; 147: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 147; 148: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 148; 149: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 149; 150: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 150; 151: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 151; 152: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 152; 153: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 153; 154: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 154; 155: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 155; 156: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 156; 157: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 157; 158: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 158; 159: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 159; 160: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 160; 161: J Hume (Sct), 71, 70, 161; 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Mexican in charge at Wembley



Blatter: campaigning

IN A move to broaden the experience of international football referees, Arturo Brizio Carter, 36, of Mexico, will be in charge of England's World Cup group qualifying match against Norway at Wembley on October 14.

This is part of a campaign announced yesterday by Sepp Blatter, the general secretary of Fifa, the world governing body, for an exchange between continents of their best referees for use in regional competition.

Europe has predominantly

FROM DAVID MILLER IN ZURICH

provided the best referees over the years, and the other four continents have resisted the import of European officials for their matches on the basis that it demeaned their own.

To counteract this, Fifa is exporting the referees of all continents. All Buisson, of the United Arab Emirates, for example, will referee the World Cup qualifying match between Turkey and San Marino on October 28. Neji Jouini, from Tunisia, will control Cyprus v Romania and Luigi Paireto, of Italy, will

control Tunisia v Benin. The Gulf Cup in the Middle East will have six referees from Asia, seven from Africa and two from Europe.

Fifa is concerned with the inadequate standard of refereeing, and is undertaking a training programme to reduce the average age of referees — 45 years is the maximum age for the 1994 World Cup finals — and also to introduce professional referees for the largest commercial competitions.

Fifa considers case, page 37

Support scheme will go ahead

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE government remains committed to introducing its annual £7 million "Sportsman" scheme for the grassroots of British sport, despite a postponement of its launch next week because of Treasury cutbacks.

Robert Key, minister in the national heritage department, said yesterday: "We had to postpone the launch until after the public spending round. It would have been quite irresponsible to do otherwise. However, it is still on the agenda. There is no lack of

enthusiasm." Through the scheme, the government would each year match every pound given by business to community sport with a pound of tax-payers' money. From each sector, there would be up to £3 million in England, £350,000 in Scotland and £175,000 in Wales. The money would go towards projects like improving local sports centres and playing fields.

However, the organisers in England, the Institute of Sports Sponsorship (ISS),

were told last month that "Sportsman" would have to be delayed, because of uncertainty over the amount of money they would have at their disposal next year. Although the money for this year still remains available, the Treasury declined to make any commitment for next year and the government did not want to begin the scheme in 1992, with the possibility that there would be a lack of money in future.

The ISS has said that it has a large number of companies

from both industry and business, ready to participate in "Sportsman". The scheme was the one imaginative innovation in the government's Review of Sport, carried out by Robert Atkins, the former Minister for Sport. In their General Election Manifesto, the Conservatives promised: "We will set up a new business sponsorship for sport scheme."

The government would be severely criticised by Labour, if it were to cancel the scheme to control spending.

Formula One champion confirms move

Mansell agrees £3m deal with Indy Car team

BY NORMAN HOWELL

NIGEL Mansell, the Formula One world motor racing champion, confirmed yesterday that he has signed with the Newman-Haas team to race in the Indy Car World Series in the United States next year.

The deal is believed to be worth around £3 million to Mansell — slightly less than the final offer the Briton rejected from the Williams-Renault team last week. But he can top that up with huge potential earnings from private sponsorships, personal appearances and extra prize-money if he manages to repeat his success in the United States.

Mansell, 39, who announced his retirement from Formula One racing before the Italian grand prix in Monza last Sunday, will compete in his first race for the American team on March 21 next year, at Surfers Paradise on Australia's Gold Coast — the only Indy race that takes place outside North America.

Mansell said he is relishing the opportunity. "Indy Car racing is a wonderful new challenge for me," he said yesterday. "I've seen quite a few races on television and the competition clearly is good."

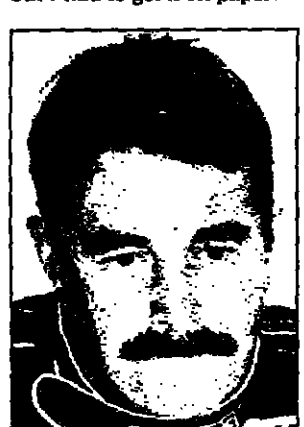
"Newman-Haas is one of the few teams in the world that I would consider racing with. They have achieved every-

thing they have set out to do. They are winners."

Confirmation of Mansell's move after 12 years on the grand prix circuit came in a statement from the Newman-Haas team's headquarters in Lincolnshire, Illinois. Paul Newman, the actor, and Carl Haas, co-owners of the team, expressed their delight.

"I did not think it was going to happen," Haas said. "Only when he became unhappy with his team did we start talking. But we had no agreement when he retired in Monza."

"I had to move in on it as I was running out of options, too. We reached a verbal agreement during this week, but I had to get it on paper."



Mansell: challenge

"Finance was not a factor in our discussions. You must remember that our pay is not as high as in Formula One. I think that what motivated him was dissatisfaction with his team and, of course, the challenge of doing something new."

Haas said he believed Mansell would thrill the crowds in the United States with his competitive driving. "Nigel is obviously one of the top drivers in the world, and any time a driver of his calibre becomes available, you have to be interested."

"His aggressive style is sure to please the American fans, and his presence will give Indy Car racing a whole new following in Europe."

The Newman-Haas team is one of the most successful in Indy Car racing. Since its formation in 1983 it has won 36 Indy Car races and taken 44 pole positions.

After completing the 1992 season there are three grands prix to go — Mansell will take a break, and start testing with Newman-Haas at the end of December.

Mansell, whose championship success this year followed three previous disappointments when he finished runner-up, is the first reigning Formula One champion to switch to Indy Car racing full-time. His team-mate will be the veteran American driver, Mario Andretti.

Andretti, 52, won the Formula One title in 1978 for Lotus. He has since won the Indy series four times. Mansell began his Formula One career alongside Andretti at Lotus in the 1980 Austrian grand prix.

With 33 cars on the starting grid as opposed to 26 in Formula One, oval tracks, obligatory fuel stops and heavier — and much faster — cars, Indy Car racing is reputed to be much more dangerous, but Haas said the risks had been "somewhat exaggerated."

"It is dangerous, but with the right team and the right approach, Mansell, who is a great racer, will do very well," Haas said.

Tough circuit, page 36



The way ahead: Ardiles shows how West Bromwich Albion want the game played

Ardiles sticks to his philosophy

Clive White reports on the revival instigated at West Bromwich Albion by Ossie Ardiles whose footballing principles never deviate

AT A time when English currency abroad in football terms, never mind monetary ones, has rarely been so low, it is somewhat ironic that we should have to rely upon a "foreigner" to ensure that some standards are still being maintained at home. How devalued English football would be without Ossie Ardiles.

Well and truly assimilated, to use Uefa's in-word, after the big sleep at Newcastle, his favourite Argentinian chose not to turn his back on the country, as he had threatened to do, after it was decided he was not the man to end the big sleep at Newcastle. Thankfully, there was another sonnet giant around who needed rousing — West Bromwich Albion.

Would "Ossie" go back, we wondered, on his life-long principles on how the game should be played, principles which he stuck to through thin and thin at St James' Park? Like a man who had made a death-bed promise, he replied simply: "I can't."

More than that, he would endeavour, for the second time in his relatively short managerial career, to preach a completely new gospel to that which the players had

been taught under the previous management. Keith Burkinshaw, who had the nerve and wit to bring Ardiles to these shores all those years ago when manager of Tottenham Hotspur and is now Ardiles's assistant, doubted whether it could be done.

Ardiles does not believe in either the long-ball game (a description he dislikes) or that anyone actually enjoys playing that way. Having persuaded the players of Swindon Town, who had enjoyed some success with that style, that there was another more enjoyable and profitable route to success, Ardiles saw no problem in converting Albion.

The result is that Albion lead the second division with six wins and a draw from their seven games, having scored more goals than any other team while conceding the least. The goal which cost them two points at Fulham with ten minutes remaining was the result of an Albion defender getting caught in possession trying to play the ball out of danger instead of

humping it away. Ardiles is prepared to live with mistakes like that.

"It's quite easy to change," he said, "but you must have very strong convictions." Ardiles has them.

Style is a subject close to Ardiles's heart and likely to evoke from him a more demonstrative response than he ever showed as a player in the face of the most cynical tactics. "In some of these teams," he said incredulously, "the playmaker is the goalkeeper. It's embarrassing to see."

"And as for schoolboy football, well, it's tragic. You have 13 and 14-year-olds who know everything there is to know about the game. Yet if you throw them the ball and say keep it up six times, five times, four times, they can't do it."

He refers to English football as "a dinosaur" but one with still enough qualities, like discipline and pluck, to make it feared abroad for all its faults. Technique was not the god-given right merely of foreigners just as it was a

mismomer, he said, that all players in Argentina and Brazil possessed it. You mean they have one-footed footballers, too? "Plenty," he said.

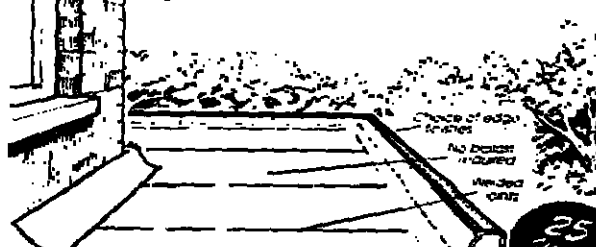
We will never know whether Ardiles's philosophy would eventually have paid off at Newcastle. He is convinced that it was only a matter of time before the tide turned. Albion were in a similarly fine mess when he arrived. Relegation to what used to be the third division for the first time in the club's history, had followed hard on the heels of an ignominious FA Cup defeat at Stoke, whose manager, Ian Porterfield, the manager, then indicated that he might play Kevin Hitchcock, the reserve goalkeeper, in the televised match against Manchester City at Maine Road tomorrow.

It depends, on whether Hitchcock's can prove his recovery from a shoulder injury which has restricted him to just one reserve match all season. Hitchcock's thoughts yesterday were for the good friend he is poised to replace, probably for good. "I feel sorry for Dave Beasant," he said. "You don't become a bad goalkeeper overnight. He will come good again."

Villa poised, page 37

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Marathon wait for all he won

Who is Britain's sportsman of the year? Nigel Mansell, Linford Christie, Nick Faldo? No argument about South Korea's. Discussion stopped. I am informed by Kim Gison, a sports writer here, the minute that Hwang Young-cho won the Olympic marathon.

If you want to upset a Japanese, just shout "Hwang" at him, like we used to shout 4-2 at Germans. Hwang settled an old score against Japan by denying them the marathon gold medal (Japan's man was second). In 1936, Korea's Sohn Kee-chung won the Olympic marathon but, because of Japanese occupation of his country, he was forced to run with a Japanese name and under a Japanese flag.

On Wednesday, a committee of seven was formed to make sure Hwang retains his Olympic title in 1996. Representatives of government and the Korean athletic federation are among them. Thus Hwang must keep at it, and cannot lay his hands on all that won he has won.

Ha Sung-bong, sports reporter with the Han Kyoreh Shinmun, says Hwang is some 300 million won (about £200,000) better off but, thanks to the anarchistic trust fund rule in so-called amateur athletics, he cannot have it until he retires. Now his retirement will be a committee decision.

Thriving times

Sport in Seoul is continuing to feel the benefit of hosting the Olympics. With £2 million in profits given to the Korea Olympic Sports Promotion Foundation, two more large facilities are under construction and all the Olympic venues are said to be in heavy use.

DAVID POWELL IN SEOUL

After three days of competition at the world junior athletics championships, there is still no sign of a Union Jack in the Olympic stadium. Have British flag-wavers been frightened off by Penny Morris's lament in Athletics Today?

Morris, a brownie pack leader, saw her flag disap-

pear in Barcelona when Linford Christie took it to celebrate his 100 metres victory. And that was the last she saw of it.

"I'm a bit upset Linford didn't give it back," Morris, who wants it for when she takes her girls camping, said. "I spent two weeks making the flag by hand from a double

bedsheet. And I used a brownie handbook to make sure I got the colours and design just right."

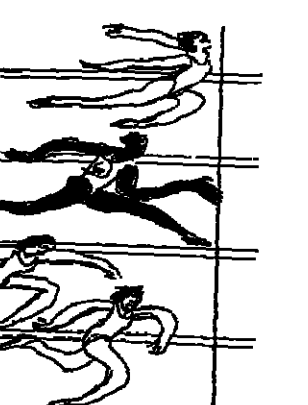
For all the facilities, in this capital city of 11 million people you cannot get on one of the 50 golf courses unless you pay £55 for a round. Provided you can afford the £22,000 life membership — and upwards — first. Golf tops the league of the most expensive sports to play.

Memories of '88

Long finger-nails are still evident in the Olympic stadium in Seoul, but whether or not drugs are out, we do not yet know.

The clawed and the flawed of 1988, Flo-Jo (Griffith-Joyner) and Ben Johnson, provided from here stories of international interest which Barcelona could not match four years later.

In the most important 100 metres races in the stadium since then, to decide the



Working your way to the top

How about this as a way to make football's promotion play-offs fairer? It would silence those who say that the team which finishes sixth in the first division should not have the same chance of reaching the Premier League as the one that finishes third.

The Korean national baseball league, which began its season in April, starts its play-offs on Thursday, with the teams which finished third and fourth (leaving you the Korean: the Giants and the Lions) facing three matches to win the title, while the second-placed team (Tigers) faces two and the top team (Eagles) only one.

First the Giants play the Lions, then the winner plays the Tigers. The winner of the second match plays the Eagles for the championship. Baseball is the No. 1 sport here and this system, in its fourth year, has won popular approval.

WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 19 1992

Making a right royal mess of our parks



London's great royal parks, masterpieces of garden design and an important part of our heritage, have been laid waste by centuries of indifference. Sir Roy Strong argues for their restoration — at almost any price

WHEN Robert Key, the national heritage under secretary, announced a series of improvements to the royal parks he understandably struck an upbeat note. "The royal parks," he rightly said, "are among the glories of London enjoyed by people of all ages, from all corners of the globe. The government is determined they should be cherished and enjoyed."

Well I, for one, am glad to hear it, but fair words are never enough if not accompanied by even fairer actions. And what hope do we have of these as the country sinks deeper and deeper into recession? Just how far up the line of heritage priorities do the parks figure? Even more pertinent, how much real muscle does the new autonomous Royal Parks Agency, under its chairman, Dame Jennifer Jenkins, and its newly appointed director, David Welch, have? Everything in the end depends not on producing a report, but on having the political push to obtain the money to implement its recommendations.

That in turn depends on whether there is, in addition, a strong enough public voice calling for their implementation. About that I would have serious doubts. The British may pride themselves on leading the world in terms of the garden, but it is very much the private garden as exemplified above all by the cult status enjoyed by those of the country houses. During this year we have seen the publication of only two books on the history of our public parks, compared with the shelf-loads celebrating the country-house idyll. We seem oblivious of our great heritage of public parks, which are now seriously under threat.



OUR indifference is due to a number of reasons. First, parks are far less central to our leisure time than a century ago. Most of them, too, are Victorian creations and have preserved an unfashionable style of gardening which focuses on bedding out thousands of annuals in a blaze of colour. In short, we've taken the parks for granted. Indeed, the fact that the Garden History Society is staging a conference on the future of the royal parks is an indication for the first time of the need for an informed lobby on their future.

We therefore start with a disadvantage, the problem of educating a public which is unaware of the importance of royal parks in the scheme of the national heritage. Many of them are masterpieces of garden design, covering a period from the mid-17th century onwards, as precious as any of the buildings they surround. For instance, behind Inigo Jones's Queen's House and Wren's Royal Naval College stretches Greenwich Park, laid out in the 1660s for Charles II, from designs by André Le Nôtre, the creator of Versailles. Some of the original Spanish chestnut trees are still part of the noble radiating avenues. Le Nôtre in gardening is the status equivalent of Rembrandt in painting. And yet when there was a recent attempt to put back part of the original scheme, it was defeated by local residents.

That defeat was the result of some ignorance, for it did not appear to cross their minds that

Greenwich Park was the equivalent, in gardening terms, of a Rembrandt. And that kind of attitude can be multiplied in respect of the other royal parks — St James's, Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, Regent's Park, Richmond and Hampton Court.

So in all its dealings the government can rely on the fact that the public is ill-informed and prejudiced in favour of preserving what has been described as a "dilapidated and shabby" status quo.

The only press mileage is in dogs and football, and certainly not in a desecration of heritage. Not that Dame Jennifer and her team bypassed the issue in their exemplary report. This readily admits that the royal parks have been reduced to the level of crude amenity arenas, whose priorities from the outside seem to be second-rate cafeterias, car parking, ugly benches and litter bins scattered by the hundred, tarmac paths zig-zagging anywhere except to accentuate the original design, and areas chopped out for bowls, tennis, playgrounds, boating houses or just about anything.

None of the royal parks has notices giving its history. It has been blotted out of public memory. But in the case of Kensington Gardens, we have Charles Bridgeman and William Kent's layout intact from the 1720s and 30s, one of the great surviving formal layouts in western Europe. Further, beneath the lawns of the south front of the palace lies William and Mary's great garden designed by the Huguenot Daniel Marot, while to the northwest lies Henry Wise's vast wilderness for Queen Anne. Today we can stand in the dip which conceals the Sunken Garden, one of the wonders of the age, the conversion of a gravel pit into descending terraces on which sat tiers of orange trees in tubs. And — a real comedown — Hawksmoor and Vanbrugh's orangery, which cost Anne the stupendous sum of £5,000, now houses a cafeteria, along with masterpieces of garden statuary from the royal collection.

In St James's, we have the architect John Nash and the royal gardener William Aiton's vision of the park as a picturesque foreground for Buckingham Palace. But the original Regency shrub-planting has long since been abandoned and space given over to a cafeteria, which once had the famous notice: "Do not feed the birds with food from this cafeteria. The results are invariably fatal."

These parks, together with Le Nôtre's Greenwich, cry out for restoration, reinstatement and recreation. Yet only one such project is really moving, Hampton Court. The reason is simple: both the palace and its garden, the greatest baroque garden ever made in

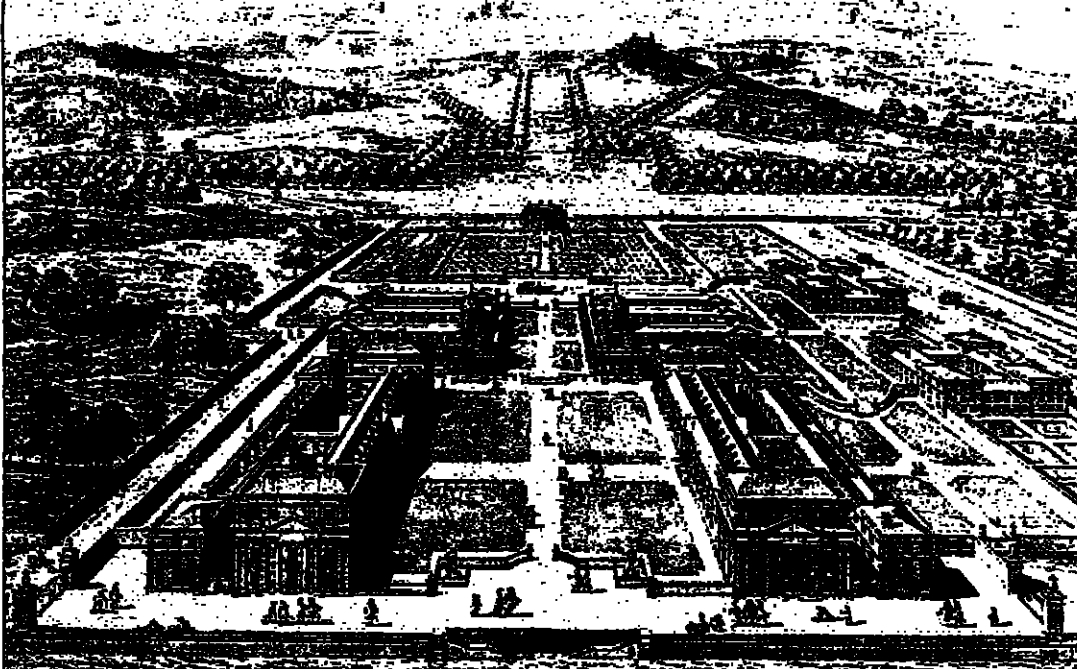


Ready: Dame Jennifer Jenkins



Agency director: David Welch

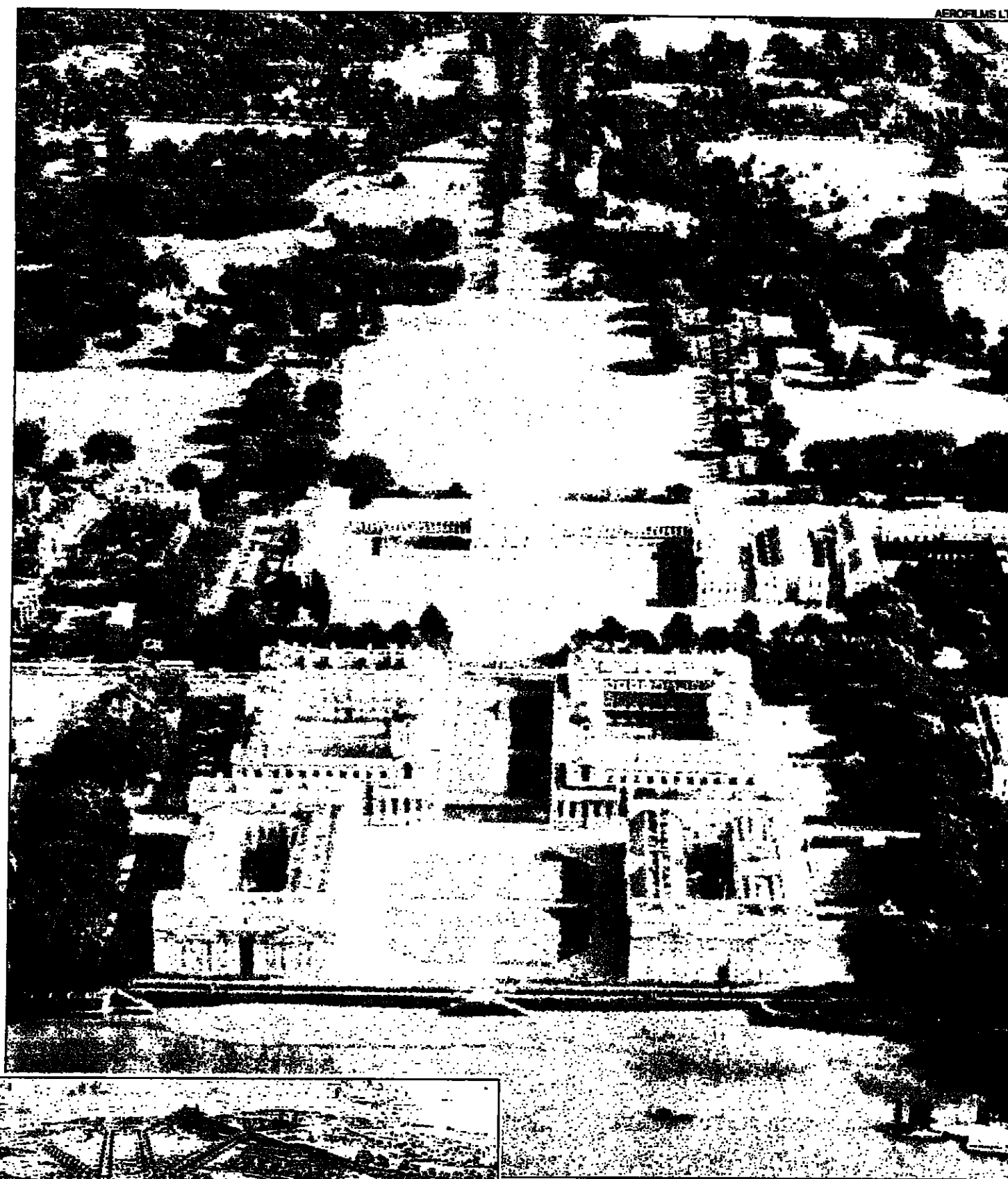
NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM, GREENWICH



Formal wear: Le Nôtre's great design (above, in 1699) is still visible at Greenwich Palace today (top)

England by William III and Mary II, have escaped the Royal Parks Agency to be part of the new Royal Palaces Directorate.

This winter it is planned to begin work on putting back the King's Privy Garden, re-creating the elaborate cut-grass parterre dotted with clipped evergreens and orange trees, and revealing the original vista from the west front to the Tjouw ironwork screens next to the Thames. This cannot be anything other than a revelation and the



Kensington Gardens for instance, up to £2 million for a new Serpentine restaurant and £150,000 for new railings. These are basic amenities and not exciting restoration projects. Where can any new money come from?

The only source mentioned by the review is car-parking. It makes one shudder. The first thing our royal parks need to get rid of is cars. They turn them into speed traps and traffic islands. They epitomise the antithesis of what we know, from consumer surveys, the public wants from royal parks: the pleasure of a simple, quiet walk, the inspiration of looking at trees and flowers and the tactile delight of sitting on grass.

Only 6 to 8 per cent of park users arrive by car, and yet the park is to be sacrificed for their interests. And even if a pay-and-display system is introduced at Kensington it will gross only £750,000 a year.

The royal parks are, therefore, in a no-win situation. The options open to them for revenue engineering are pathetically small: catering concessions, fees for chairs and other facilities, the occasional gala event, and little else.

There is, of course, the dread path of admission fees. The parks are visited by about 10 million people a year. At £1 a head, that's a lot of money. And the government

department including, in the case of

selves. But it would be at a price reminiscent of what Sir Robert Walpole said to Queen Mary when she asked what the cost to her would be of closing St James's Park. "Three crowns," was the sharp reply.



PERHAPS there are other ways. A toll on vehicles using the roads through the parks would certainly be one. Another would be charging for particular areas. If the two great baroque gardens were put back around Kensington Palace they would be a big attraction which could be charged for. So, too, would be Le Nôtre's great parterre and fountains if they were constructed at Greenwich.

Even now sponsorship should offer a range of opportunities for the royal parks in this green decade. And we have yet to learn of the royal parks' sponsorship and marketing programmes.

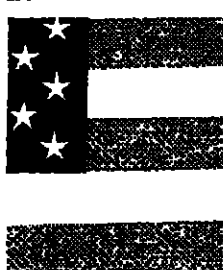
Calling on the government to produce more is a cry in the wilderness. And yet one wonders whether the £55 million showered on Manchester in the hope of staging the Olympics, at the most a blazing fortnight of media coverage, has been well spent.

The royal parks restored, revived and reinstated would give the metropolis a lasting national glory. Then we could applaud Robert Key, whose pledge to cherish them would have been fulfilled.

● Sir Roy Strong's book, *Royal Gardens*, with photographs by Andrew Lawson, is to be published on October 8 by BBC Books/Conran Octopus (£20). A BBC2 series of the same name will run in October.

● The Garden History Society's conference about the royal parks will be held at The Royal Pharmaceutical Society Hall on October 1, 11am-4.30pm. Tickets, including lunch, £15 from Geoffrey Evans, The Orchard, Pollards Hill, Oxley, Surrey, RH8 0QX.

GATEWAY TO THE USA, PAGE 9



Your chance to win one of 30 pairs of return tickets to cross the Atlantic, and save up to £2,000 with free seat upgrades

PROPERTY, PAGE 14



Candida Lycett Green has renounced frills and flourishes in favour of stark simplicity — but will it help her to sell her house?

CHILDREN, PAGE 16

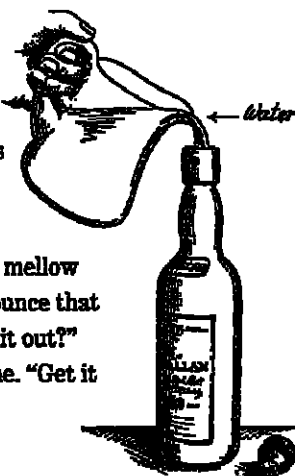


Cameras roll, 30,000 fans applaud and an eight-year-old runs on to the pitch — all in a day's work for a football mascot

Tip 1.

At times such as these, it behoves us all to practise frugality. Here is a useful tip sent to us by Mrs DOORBARR of Newcastle under Lyme.

"When I give my husband his Macallan Malt Whisky, he likes to drink it neat, savouring its mellow sherry-oak tones and flavours. But when I announce that the bottle is empty, he asks 'Have you thrown it out?' 'Yes,' I answer. 'It's too good to waste,' says he. 'Get it out of the bin and swirl in a little water. There's a dram to be squeezed from it yet.'"

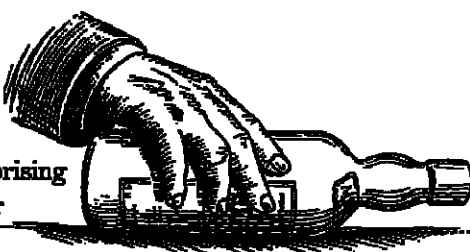


ECONOMY TIP(PL)ES.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS LATELY RECEIVED.

Tip 2.

When seemingly empty, lie the Macallan bottle on its side. A surprising amount can gather here. Tilt gently forward and ease the residue into your glass.



Tip 3.

Rest exhausted bottles, with corks on, upside down, in old flowerpots or similar containers. Every 6 months or so, moisten tongue with cork to recall golden days.

Tip 4?

Any other economy notion you may have will be welcomed at the Distillery. Those we publish will be rewarded with an Economy Size bottle (70cl) of 10 year old The Macallan to tip at will.

The Macallan. The Malt.



FILM

LES AMANTS DU PONT NEUF (18): Les Carax's hymn to Paris and a punk bum's love for a young artist going blind. Terrific in spirit, and a real movie movie. Denis Lavant, Juliette Binoche. Lumière (071-836 0691).

BOB ROBERTS (15): Lively spoof documentary about a right-wing folk-singer's dirty battle for a seat in the U.S. Senate. Entertaining directorial debut by actor Tim Robbins.

GATE (071-727 4043) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) Odeons: Haymarket (0426 914666) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).



Gunman: Clint Eastwood in the western *Unforgiven*

THE HOURS AND TIMES: Will Bran Epstein bed John Lennon in Barcelona? Director Christopher Munch's rudimentary style makes it difficult for most people to care. ICA (071-930 3647).

HOUSEHITTER (PG): Goldie Hawn moves into architect Steve Martin's dream house and poses as his wife. A few bright spots; mostly very trying. Director, Frank Oz. Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) MGM Fulham Road (071-935 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Oxford Street (071-436 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-497 9999) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (15): Childless Western couple in Pakistan suffer culture clashes. Interesting material suppressed by jolly treatment. James Wilby, Melissa Leo. Writer-director, Jamil Dehlvi. Minerva (071-235 4225) MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025).

HOWARDS END (PG): Absorbing version of E.M. Forster's novel about two conflicting families with different ideals. With Anthony Hopkins, Emma Thompson, Helena Bonham-Carter. Director, James Ivory. Curzon: Phoenix (071-465 8865) Phoenix (081-883 2233).

JUICE (15): Friendship and violence among ghetto youths. Superior sample of the new black cinema, directed by Spike Lee's cameraman, Ernest R. Dickerson. Omar Epps, Tupac Shakur. MGM Fulham Road (071-930 0631) MGM Trocadero (071-494 0331).

KNIGHT MOVES (18): Somebody goes on a murder spree during a chess tournament; is it champion player Christopher Lambert? Tawdry thriller co-starring David Lane. Flashy direction by Carl Schenkell. MGM Fulham Road (071-935 9772) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN (PG): Bristow, dished salute to women's all-girl baseball teams. Gena Davis, Tom Hanks and, consequently, Madonna. Director, Penny Marshall. MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Oxford Street (071-436 0310) Odeons: Kensington (0426 914666) West End (0426 915574) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

LETHAL WEAPON 3 (15): Rousing comedy and mayhem with L.A. cops Riggs and Murtagh. Mel Gibson, Danny Glover, Joe Pesci, director, Richard Donner. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-436 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-497 9999) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

LOVERS (18): In Franco's Spain, Victoria Abril derails her lodger's intended marriage. Excellent tale of mad love, expertly mounted by director Vicente Aranda. MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772).

THE PLAYER (15): Dazzling satire on Hollywood, directed by Robert Altman from Michael Tolkin's novel. Tim Robbins as the studio executive who kills a writer; plus cameo galore. MGM Baker Street (071-935 9772) MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Trocadero (071-497 9999) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

MEZANINE (0426 915683) Screen on Baker Street (071-935 2772) Screen on the Hill (071-435 3366) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THE POWER OF ONE (12): Orphaned white South African child develops a social conscience. Jumbled epic, coarsely handled by director John G. Avildsen. Stephen Dorff, Morgan Freeman, Armin Mueller-Stahl. Barbican (071-638 8891) Camden Parkway (071-267 7034) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561) Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

UNFORGIVEN (15): Clint Eastwood's mellowed gunman is forced to resurrect his lethal skills. Marvelously resonant, reflective Western. Gene Hackman, Morgan Freeman, Richard Harris. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Empire (071-497 9999) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-436 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-497 9999) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

WATERLAND (15): Jeremy Irons as the Fenland history teacher in this brave but failed attempt to film Graham Swift's complex novel. Director, Stephen Gyllenhaal. Barbican (071-638 8891) Curzon West End (071-439 4805) Chelsea (071-351 3742) Odeon Kensington (0426 914666).

WHITE SANDS (15): The FBI, black marketers and a small-town cop chase each other's tails in New Mexico. An impenetrable plot, but lively. Willem Dafoe, Mickey Rourke; director, Roger Donaldson. MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527) MGM Oxford Street (071-436 0310) MGM Trocadero (071-497 9999) UCI Whiteleys (071-792 3332).

THEATRE

THE ALCHEMIST: David Bradley and Jonathan Hyde nimbly conning the town in Sam Mendes's very funny production of Jonson's satire. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Mon-Wed, 7.15pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Ariel Dorfman's scorching psychological drama on the longing for revenge. Penny Downie, Danny Webb and Hugh Ross make up the cast. Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

THE DYBBUK: Katie Mitchell's thrillingly convincing Hassidic community where the supernatural presses in on all sides. Joanne Pearce superb as the girl possessed. The Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8891). Fri, next Sat, 7.15pm, mat next Sat, 2pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING: Witty and stylish version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sixties songs. Ambassadors, West Street, London WC2 (071-836 6111). Mon-Thurs, 8.15pm, Fri and Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

GRAND HOTEL: Musical barley sugar. Berlin in the Twenties. Sentimental, American, entertaining. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-580 9562). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

HAMLET: Alan Rickman and a splendid cast in Shakespeare's play. Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 (081-748 3354). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm. Until Oct 10.

HIS MAJESTY: Harley Granville-Barker's 1928 play about the eel king of Carpathia (Sam Dastor), who re-enters his stricken country to bring the warring sides together. Short on theatrical surprises. Orange Tree, 1 Clarence Street, Richmond (081-940 3633). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm.



Alan Rickman: heading a splendid cast in *Hamlet*

AN INSPECTOR CALLS: Stephen Daldry's powerful resurrection of Priestley's drama of social responsibility. National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-828 2252). Thurs-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, 2.15pm.

IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Larks in the hospital common room; madmen outraged, doctors flummoxed. Ray Cooney faces with lots of laughs. With John Quail, Sandra Dickinson and Conney Marshall. Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (071-839 4401). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 5.30pm.

MEDEA: Diana Riggs plays Euripides's witch-wife. Almeida, Almeida Street, W1 (071-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm. Until Oct 24.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE! COME! Brian Friel's affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his carping alter ego. A revival to be cherished. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mat Wed, 3pm, Sat, 5pm.

SIX DEGREES OF SEPARATION: Stockard Channing as the rich New Yorker transfixed by a black con artist in John Guare's fine play on human inter-dependence. Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

SOMEONE WHO? WATCH OVER ME: Excellent play by Alec McCowen, Morgan Freeman and Stephen Rea as the Beirut hostages in Frank McGuinness's new play. Vaudeville, The Strand, WC2 (071-836 9887). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

SQUARE ROUNDS: New Tony Harrison "theatre piece" in verse roasts the inventors of machine guns and other tools of slaughter. Performed almost entirely by women. National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-828 2252). Previews from Fri, 7.15pm; opens Oct 1, 7pm.

WHO SHALL I BE TOMORROW?: Joanna Lumley plays an out-of-work actress doing the rounds in Bernard Kops's two-hander. Also starring Harry Landis. Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (081-858 7755). Previews from Thurs, 7.45pm; opens Sept 29, 7pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's triumphant RSC production. John Cople as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama laced with wit. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm.

REGIONAL
CHICHESTER: Four performances of Lord Byron's once-scandalous tragedy, *Gain*, with Richard Warwick and Kate O'Mara as our first parents, Samuel West and Robert Portal their fractious offspring. Minerva, Oakland Parks (0243 781312). Tues-Fri, 8.15pm.

GUILDFORD: Neil Simon's 1991 Pulitzer Prize-winner, *Lost in Yonkers*, starring Maureen Lipman and Rosemary Harris, starts its pre-London tour. Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Millbrook (0483 60191). Opens Tues, 7.45pm; then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 2.30pm.

LEICESTER: The *Ballad of the Lincolns*, Tim Newton's award-winning performance of his chilling tale of a giant rat in Victorian dockland. A nationwide tour starts here. Haymarket Theatre, Belgrave Gate (0533 539797). Tues-Sat, 8pm.

MANCHESTER: Kevin Fegan's *Excess 55* with music by Steve Moran brings the city's club and rave scene onto the stage. A high energy occasion. Contact, Oxford Road (061-274 4400). Previews Wed, Thurs, 7.30pm; opens Fri, 7.30pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.

OXFORD: National Theatre's BPSponsored tour of *Billy Liar* (director Tim Supple), starts here. The next dates are Chichester and Tisbury Wells. Playhouse, Beaumont Street (01865 786000). Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3.30pm.

MUSIC

HALLÉ ORCHESTRA: The talent and energy of the young American conductor Kent Nagano should go a long way towards helping to restore the fortunes of the Manchester orchestra. A noted champion of 20th-century and contemporary music, Nagano begins his week as he means to go on. His first concert as the orchestra's music director includes the British premiere of a short piece, *Sourire*, by Messiaen, performed in homage to its composer, who died last year. El Dorado, by the American minimalist John Adams, whose most recent opera, *The Death of Kingfisher*, had its premiere under Nagano; and Stravinsky's ballet *The Firebird*. Free Trade Hall, Peter Street, Manchester, tomorrow, 7.30pm. Hallé booking office, St Ann's Arcade, Manchester (061-834 1722).

LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: The LSO opens its season with a concert that includes the world premiere of *Hidden Variables* by Colin Matthews, a work that takes an ambivalent look at the music of several contemporary minimalists. Tchaikovsky's *Rococo Variations* and Prokofiev's suite from *Romeo and Juliet* make up the rest of the programme. Steven Isserlis is the cello soloist. Michael Tilson Thomas conducts. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891). Thurs, 7.30pm.

WELSH NATIONAL OPERA: The nightmare world of Richard Strauss's second opera *Elektra* should provide a perfect foil for the vivid (and often bizarre) imagination of the American producer David Alden, responsible for ENO's much-praised (and much-criticized) staging of Verdi's *A Masked Ball* (and for the Pet Shop Boys world tour. Little Hardy since the title role. Felicity Palmer is Klytemnestra, Eva Maria Bunschuch, Chrysothemis. Carlo Rizzi conducts the apocalyptic score. New Theatre, Park Place, Cardiff (0222 394844). Tonight, 7.15pm.

I CAPULETI E I MONTECCHI: Pier Luigi Pizzi's 1984 production of Bellini's bel canto treatment of the Romeo and Juliet story is revived with promising cast. Anne Sofie von Otter sings Juliet, the young British soprano Amanda



Eagerly awaited return: Josephine Barstow in Verdi's opera, *The Force of Destiny*

Roccroft sings Juliet. The conductor is Daniele Gatti. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-240 1066). Tues, Fri, 7.30pm.

LA VOIX HUMAINE: Marianne Helgren performs Poulenc's one act opera for solo soprano, representing one side of a telephone conversation between a woman and the lover who is abandoning her. Claire Gaskon produces. Theatre Museum, 16 Tavistock Street, London WC2 (071-836 2330). Tues-next Sat, 7.30pm.



Marianne Helgren: on the line in *La Voix Humaine*

THE FORCE OF DESTINY: Last season's successful Don Carlos is followed by a new production of one of Verdi's bleakest but most compelling works, newly translated by Jeremy Sams. Cast and production team need no recommendation: Nicholas Hytner directs, Richard Hudson designs, Mark Elder conducts. Josephine Barstow, making an eagerly awaited return, sings Leonora. Edmund Barham and Don Alvaro, Jonathan Summers Don Carlos. Coliseum, 21 Mark Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161). Tues, Fri, 7pm. Further performances through Sept and Oct.

ROCK

GRACE JONES: The unpredictable star makes her only European appearance this year with a kinky party-cum-gig full of oddball guests. Ms Jones herself is not scheduled to Grace the stage until midnight. Britten, London SW9 (071-326 1022). Tonight, 8pm.

THE MTV "420 MINUTES" MUSIC FESTIVAL: A eclectic selection of happening bands playing in small to large London venues over ten days. Highlights include the wayward country band The Red Jumpsuit Girls (18C tomorrow, 7pm) and Irish thump rockers Therapy with able support from hard-edged northerners Leatherface (The Grand, Mon, 7pm). The following week sees Pavement's loopy guitar pop plus Eugene (Astoria, Sept 30).

Town & Country Club, London NW5 (071-284 0303). The Grand, Clapham, London SW11 (071-738 9000).

BABES IN TOYLAND: This all-girl group, in cradling form on their new album *Fontanelle*, peddle their own brand of blistering rock. Town & Country Club (as above), Wed, 7pm. Brighton Centre, East Wing (0273 202881). Thurs, 8pm. Wroughton Centre, Milton Keynes (0908 660392). Fri, 8pm.

JAZZ

GRAND PIANO JAZZ DUOS: Three exciting pianists — Gordon Beck, Michael Garrick and Julian Joseph — team up for an unusual combination of standards and electrifying originals. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800). Tomorrow, 8pm.

KENNY WHEELER: Expect tuneful, innovative compositions from this different trumpet and flugelhorn player appearing here with his quintet. Jazz Café, London NW1 (071-284 4358). Thurs, 7pm.

JOEY CALDERAZZO: This increasingly interesting pianist, whose recent album *To Know One*, saw him in the company of jazzers such as Branford Marsalis and Jack DeJohnette, plays his varied

repertoire in London this week. Jazz Café (as above), Tues and Wed, 7pm.

BARBARA THOMPSON: Joyful, kinetic fusion jazz from the saxophonist and her group Paraphernalia. Ronnie Scott's, Birmingham (021-643 4525). Mon-next Sat, 8pm.

EXHIBITIONS

WISDOM AND COMPASSION: THE SACRED ART OF TIBET: More than 160 rare paintings, sculptures and tapestries are brought together for this huge new show of Tibetan art dating from the 9th century to the present day and financially supported by *The Times*. An accessible introduction to the Buddhist ideas behind Tibet's complex culture, the exhibition offers an opportunity to discover an artistic heritage which has suffered greatly in the violence of recent years. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Dec 13.

THE ART OF ANCIENT MEXICO: A selection of the finest Mexican art with the earliest exhibits dating from ten centuries before Christ. Although the show coincides with the Columbus Quincentenary, it celebrates a civilisation quite different from the culture imposed on Mexico by Spain, with exhibits ranging from austere statues of gods and goddesses to lively animal pieces. Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 3144). Daily, 10am-6pm. Late nights Tues and Wed, 8pm, until Dec 6.

IN THE ROUND/DESIGNS ON POSTERS: The contemporary medal is a much collected but critically neglected art-form. The Fédération Internationale de la Médaille, founded in 1937, holds biennial exhibitions, and this year's, the first to be held in Britain, brings together more than 1100 medals by 600 artists. British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (071-323 8523). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-6pm, until Oct 25.

JOHN HEARTFIELD: Born Helmut Herz, John Heartfield anglicised his name, not in exile from Hitler, but in Germany in the middle of the first world war, as a protest against German xenophobia. His satirical photo-montages chronicle the rise of Nazism, and inevitably forced him into exile eventually; yet he lost none of his cutting edge even today. Hence the title of the accompanying exhibition, *The Cutting Edge*, which looks at contemporary political satire. Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-588 9023). Mon, Wed-Sat, 10am-6.45pm, Tues, 10am-5.45pm, Sun, midday-6.45pm, until Oct 18.

JAMES PRYDE: Best remembered today as half of the poster designing-team the Beggarstaff Brothers (the other being his brother-in-law William Nicholson), James Pryde also had a distinguished career of his own as a painter. He was a native of Edinburgh, and something of the city's mystery and romance entered into his work, which often has a saintly theatrical feel to it. Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, Belford Road, Edinburgh (031-556 8921). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Oct 18.

SONGS OF MY PEOPLE: Subtitled "African Americans: A Self-Portrait", this show opened in Washington in February, and begins its European tour in London, to be followed by York, Rome, Milan, Montreal and Brussels. Fifty black American photographers (including four Pulitzer Prize winners) were commissioned to record the diversity of black culture in the United States. Some 150 pictures range from social Manhattan and political Washington to jazz clubs and gospel halls, and include black astronauts, symphony conductors, rodeo cowboys and circus clowns. Royal Galleries, Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-928 3002). Daily, 10am-10.30pm, until Oct 25.

THE STREETS OF LONDON 1895-1928: H.E. Tidmarsh trained at the National Art Training School, before it became the Royal College of Art, and always seems to have regarded himself as a journeyman artist: after he turned to magazine illustration in the 1890s he drew more or less anything the editors of *The Graphic* and *The Illustrated London News* wanted, particularly travel and news pictures, but also some of London, old and new. The result is a



Henry Kelly

Last week's highlight for me was seeing Pavarotti in the opening night of *Tosca* at the Royal Opera House. An evening at the opera followed by a Martini cocktail, a hamburger and a glass of claret at Joe Allen's is my ideal. I can't think of a single movie in the last 20 years that I'd bother to cross the road for, but I do enjoy going to the theatre. I'd love to see the current production of *Pygmalion* at the National Theatre (due back in the repertoire, October 8) as I adore the works of George Bernard Shaw. I would also be curious to see the Harley Granville-Barker play *His Majesty* which is on at the Orange Tree theatre in Richmond. Harley Granville-Barker was a part of my youth. He was the Shakespeare critic we loved to hate — he who managed to misquote Shakespeare despite being one of the leading Shakespearean critics of the day...?

wonderfully vivid and direct record of the past. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2 (071-600 3699). Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until Oct 4.

GEORGE BASELITZ — PRINTS 1964-90: When he's not attacking the canvas or gouging out linework for his sculptures, this important contemporary German artist enjoys aggressively cutting into the line block or etching the metal plate to create some arresting prints. This survey of his graphic work takes us from his earliest images of shattered body parts to his Sixties prints featuring warriors with paintbrushes and latterly his serial works, endlessly examining a single motif. Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun 2-5.50pm, until Nov 1.

ALFRED SISLEY: Curiously, there has never been an important retrospective of the Impressionist's work before, to enable his qualities to be properly judged. This show encourages a major reassessment of his landscape art, and particularly of his work of the 1890s, when, the organisers contend, he arrived at his own version of the series painting, radically different from Monet's. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, until Oct 18.

MONUMENTAL REPUTATION: Robert Adam, the bicentenary of whose death falls this year, has always been held up as the paragon of luxurious good taste and measure in all things. This amazing show demonstrates that it was not always so: his youthful fantasies were as extravagant as anybody's. It basically concerns his long obsession with the ruins of Diocletian's Palace at Split, and the major enterprise of producing and marketing his monumental book on the subject in 1764. Unparalleled loans from Russia and Rome; an eye-opening National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh (031-226 4531). Mon-Fri, 9.30am-5pm, Sat, 9.30am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until Sept 30.

THE PAINTED NUDE: Up until the time of Ety in the early 19th century the nude in Britain generally required an excuse, however transparent, in the shape of a subject from classical myth or a Biblical story such as Susannah and the Elders. But from then on the nude in painting gradually became accepted in its own right, until today it can be the major preoccupation of a painter such as Lucian Freud without raised eyebrows, the emphasis often being on the vulnerability of the "poor bare forked animal". This new display at the Tate, the second in the *Crosscurrents* series, charts the history of this change from the gallery's own collection. Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.30pm, Sun, 2-5.30pm, until Dec 27.

SALE ROOMS
MONDAY: Rooms from the various Eaton Hall, successive seats of the Dukes of Westminster, will be offered at the stables of the present house by Sotheby's, 10.30am. William Porden's Gothic mahogany George IV state bed (up £15,000) rubs heads with a pair of 1950s Herman Miller leather swivel easy chairs (up to £600). In London at the same time Christie's offer continental porcelain including Meissen from the Korthaus collection. Sotheby's (071-493 8080); today and for seven days 0244 681650. Christie's, 8 King Street, St James, SW1 (071-839 9060).

TUESDAY: Carpets, 19th-century and later furniture and a number of oddities such as a 1920s Shagreen and silver-mounted dressing table set in a fitted case (up to £800) are at Phillips, 11am. Phillips, 101 New Bond Street, W1 (071-629 6602).

WEDNESDAY: A stuffed pipe and a Victorian "huntsman's desk" are accompanied by more conventional items in Cooper Hirst's Chelmsford sale, 10.30am. Cooper Hirst, Victoria Road, Chelmsford (0245 260535).

THURSDAY: Spindle-back chairs, a good George IV architect's table and a Napoleonic vision of war bone ship model are included in a furniture sale at Lawrence of Crenkles in Somerset, 11am. Lawrence, South Street, Crewkerne (0460 73041).

FRIDAY: Jewels at Bonhams, 19th and 20th century furniture at Sotheby's, with an emphasis on the belle époque and lavish reproduction, and modern British and Irish paintings and water colours at Christie's, all at 11am. The last sale includes a splendid Max Beerbohm put-down of William Rothenstein's priggishness (up to £3,000). Bonhams, Montpelier Street, SW7 (071-584 9161). Sotheby's, New Bond Street, W1 (071-493 8080). Christie's (as above).

DANCE
SIOSHAN DAVIES DANCE COMPANY: One of Britain's leading contemporary choreographers, Siohban Davies presents the world premiere of two new works. The first is *White Bird Featherless*, using the music of Irish composer Gerald Barry, who has restructured sequences from his opera, *The Intelligence Park*, for two pianos and cello-tenor. The other new work is *Make-A-Make*, performed to a vocal score based on the sounds and rhythms of Irish music songs, Pygmy polyphones and Celtic funeral songs. The Trancey, Albany Drive, Glasgow (041-227 5511). Thurs-next Sat, 8pm.

SWAN LAKE: Yet another production of Tchaikovsky's classic by yet another Russian ballet company. This time the company is the little-known National Ballet of St Petersburg, led by dancers from the Kirov and Bolshoi companies (see Bookings). The new production is by Victor Korkorov, the company's artistic director.

EUROPA (Electric, 15). Intrigue and Kafkaesque comedy on Germany's train network in 1945. Ludicrously styled but bone-deep fantasy from Danish wunderkind Lars von Trier. With Jean-Marc Barr, 1991. HEAR MY SONG (CIC, 15). Desperate Liverpool promoter seeks the reclusive Irish tenor Josef Locke, wanted in Britain for tax evasion. Overpraised whimsy, with modest pleasures. With Ned Beatty, Adrian Dunbar, William Hootkins. Director, Peter Chelsom, 1991. SERGEANT BRUKO (Fox Video, U): Phil Silvers as the conning king of Fort Baxter's Motor Pool. American television's best vintage comedy show makes its long-awaited video debut with three initial tapes, presenting the episodes in roughly chronological order.

BOOKINGS
NATIONAL BALLET OF ST PETERSBURG: A handful of Bolshoi and Kirov dancers join forces to head up another British tour by a little-known Russian company (see Dance listings). City Hall, Sheffield (0742 735295), Sept 26. Conference Centre, Harrogate (0423 564433), Sept 27. Pavillion, Plymouth (0752 229922), Sept 29. Civic Hall, Wolverhampton (0902 312030), Sept 30. Apollo, Oxford (0865 244544), Oct 1. BIC, Bournemouth (0202 297297), Oct 2. 3. Corn Exchange, Cambridge (0223 357851), Oct 4, 5. Guildhall, Portsmouth (0705 824355), Oct 7. Wembley Conference Centre, Wembley (081-900 1234), Oct 9. Brighton Centre (0273 202881), Oct 10.

ASSASSINS: Closed in 1989, the Donmar Warehouse reopens next month. Sam Mendes, one of the hottest young properties in theatre, is the artistic director. Opening the season will be the new musical by Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman, acclaimed off Broadway last year. Nine American malcontents attempt to assassinate the presidents of the United States. Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, London WC2 (071-867 1150). Oct 22-Jan 9.

PETULA CLARK: The singer gives her first British concerts for ten years. Beck, Hayes (081-561 8371). Oct 7, 8. Apollo, Oxford (0865 244544), Oct 9. Alhambra, St Albans (0772 44488), Oct 10. Hippodrome, Bristol (02

Roll up for a 'real' fantasy thrill

In the quest for excitement Joe Joseph plunges headlong into a 'virtual reality' world of roller-coasters and lunchboxes



THERE was a time when an adult in search of a racy thrill might chase a few pigeons across Trafalgar Square, or maybe spoon six sugary into a colleague's afternoon tea, and feel they had tasted enough adrenalin to last them a decade. But now that escapism has been institutionalised by theme parks, millions of people seeking excitement can be aroused only by the prospect of being chased at 80mph by a serial killer across a roller-coaster ride that bursts into flames after being hit by an earthquake. And this is before they've had a few drinks.

Roller-coasters became popular about 400 years ago in Russia, helping to keep the court of Catherine the Great amused. Presumably with a horsey theme. But things changed about 40 years ago when Walt Disney looked across a Californian orange grove and had a vision of a magic kingdom full of fairy-tale castles, cartoon characters with abnormally large heads and escapist roller-coaster rides. It launched a revolution, and ferocious competition for thrill-seekers.

Dreaming in Disneyland became not just a weekend diversion but every American's constitutional right. Newsreel taken when Disneyland first opened its doors shows Ronald Reagan skipping round the place like a schoolboy, under the voice-over: "Disneyland could only happen in a country where freedom is a heritage and the pursuit of happiness a basic human right", a proposition so axiomatic and powerful that it served years later as Reagan's political philosophy when he reached the White House.

This historic newsreel was re-shown in *Theme Park Heaven*, the latest in Channel 4's *Equinox* series, which took a white-knuckled peek at modern amusement rides and, in passing, reminded us how television documentaries have become as gory and dispiriting to watch as the cops-and-robbers shoot-outs they hypenate.

OK, some people may be impressed when they see Dr David Lewis, a psychologist, argue: "Stress is often seen as something negative and damaging... But in fact you need a level of stress in order to feel good about yourself, to feel at peak performance." (Although, frankly, it is just this sort of remark that convinces us laymen that scientists,

TV REVIEW

and psychologists in particular, have bigger holes in their doughnuts than the rest of us.)

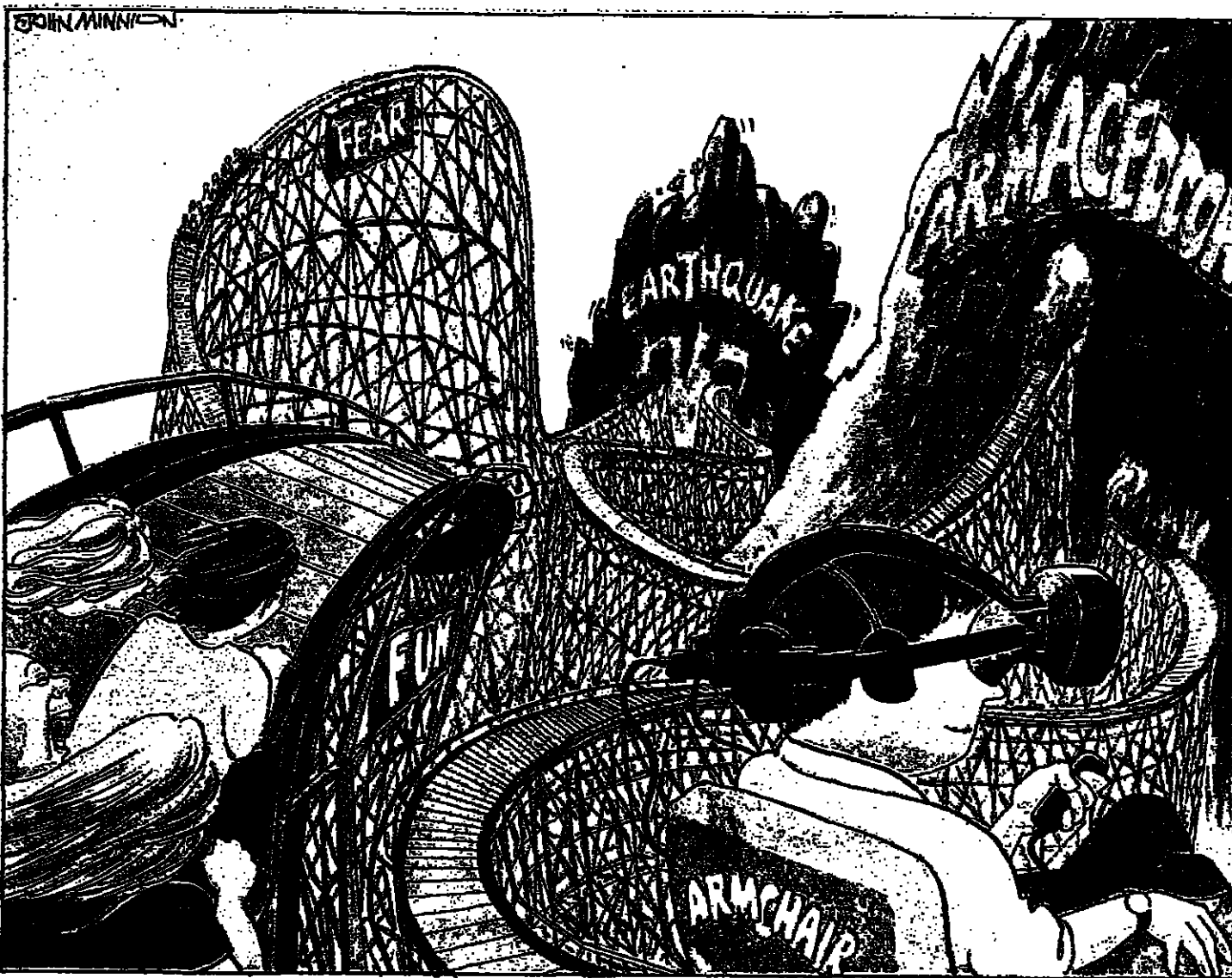
But if it is hard to believe that an unemployed man worried about repaying his mortgage is at least grateful that stress is making him feel good about himself, it is even harder to fathom the appeal of roller-coasters. Why, unless you are in London for lunch and due in Edinburgh for tea, would you want to travel anywhere at 80mph, sitting in what looks like a bigish pram?

A designer of these new roller-coasters, which cost about £4 million, confides that you could get the same effect by driving at just above the speed limit, with your head stuck out of the window. Is this fun? Apparently, Debbie Enders, a roller-coaster junkie, was filmed on her virgin ride on the Magnum XL 200, the world's tallest roller-coaster. It has a descent that could be imitated by jumping off a cliff. She described it as "like experiencing being in a poem". Debbie cannot be reading Bejeman.

What is unsettling is that as *Theme Park Heaven* unfolded, you got the feeling that roller-coaster rides are not only becoming an alternative universe, but that the lines between the real and fantasy universes are becoming so blurred that an academic such as Professor Sylvère Lotringer, of Columbia University, does not feel shy about suggesting that the recent riots in Los Angeles could be interpreted as a theme park developed on the theme of "civil war".

Timothy Leary, who probably thinks "white knuckles" are some new kind of drug, told us that "being able to put on some goggles to immerse yourself in some alternate reality is our culture's present version of a psychedelic drug's alternate reality". He was referring to the trend that is keeping roller-coaster designers at their drawing boards: virtual reality theme parks.

You see, simulated rides no longer generate enough excitement. The Universal Studios tour in Hollywood already has a ride through an earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter scale, with floods and fires for those who like their bodies shaken and stirred. And, hatching together film and aviation simulator technologies, we have the *Back to the Future* ride, which



Stirred, but not sufficiently shaken: theme-park thrills could give way to shudders in the sitting-room via a "virtual reality" headset

saves space by jiggling your roller-coaster pram in front of a wrap-around film screen.

Under construction is an archaeological ride through ancient Egypt to tempt the jaded patrons of a Las Vegas casino: this brings home how the experience of sitting in a blacked-out gaming room for maybe 79 hours on the trot and gambling away your children's school fees is regarded as insufficiently escapist for some people.

To meet the challenge, designers are working on "movie parks" or "cinetropolis", marriages between theme parks and movie complexes.

The idea is to "see a lot of short stories that together create a 90-minute experience", presumably enabling us to shudder in an earthquake, meet Mickey Mouse, fly into the future, roller-coaster through *Luxor* and still have time for a pepperoni pizza on the way home. Of course, with virtual reality,

when we will be able to immerse ourselves in three-dimensional worlds by wearing special goggles, the theme park comes to us, enabling us to escape into fantasy without even leaving our sitting-rooms. A family day out at Disneyland will then become as sociable as a commuter Tube train in which everyone is buried in a newspaper or listening to personal stereos. Some scientists are even working on "retinal injections", which will project the image directly into your eyeballs, saving the effort of putting on your virtual reality headset. Oh, for heaven's sake.

Call me old-fashioned, but scientists seem to lack imagination. Just flicking on the television last week suggested several ways in which thrill-seekers could keep their pulses racing without the fuss of building £4 million roller-coasters. *The Big Boss*, Tuesday's episode of *Survival* on Channel 4, peered at

the Cape buffalo, ranked among the most dangerous animals in Africa. These beasts roam the savannah, largely minding their own business, but they are not shy about attacking any lion that picks on a young buffalo calf. Would it not make a cheap and ecologically sound "theme park experience" to arrange bungee-jumping above a Cape buffalo herd? Hours of family fun! Keep the camcorder running.

Then again, *Disaster at Valdez* (BBC1) suggested possibilities for uniting adventure seekers and 11 million gallons of crude oil off Alaska. A roller-coaster ride based on the etiquette quiz show *Ps and Qs* (BBC2) would avoid messy oil spills and would also appeal to those whose heart pounds before asking the hostess: "If she would mind heating up your vichyssoise because it seems to have got cold

while you were in the lavatory.

After watching *Tidallywinks 'n' Undies* (BBC1), a fascinating history of the false eyelash and the Welsh factory that has kept everyone from Mae West to Barbara Cartland fluttering, I feel sure there is room for a theme park ride in which punters, travelling on a roller-coaster, have to glue eyelashes on to mannequins of Miss Cartland and Dusty Springfield as they speed past.

The Survival Guide To Food (BBC1), which advised how to avoid food poisoning in your lunchbox, could be turned into an amusing diversion in which punters, offered six bowls of crudites, have to avoid the one spiked with botulism: exciting, but costing nowhere near £4 million to stage.

And then there was *The Last Night Of The Proms* (BBC1)—but that has been an embarrassing roller-coaster romp for years.

TV PREVIEW

● **The Look** (Sunday, BBC2, 8.10pm)
Fashion is big egos, big shoulders, and big business. Leading designers lend their name to everything from chocolates to coffins, and names such as Giorgio Armani and Ralph Lauren are instantly recognisable, even to the residents of *Coronation Street*. The start tomorrow of a six-part series that lifts the veil on the fashion industry concentrates on who sits where at the fashion shows that keep fashion journalists, the glitterati and department store buyers jet-bound from Paris to Milan to New York non-stop through the year. The seating plan is a political map of the fashion industry, bringing headachef for those left to assign the places, and glory for those who claw their way into the front row.

● **Civvies** (Tuesday, BBC1, 9.30pm)
Lynda La Plante, the author of *Prime Suspect*, turns her gaze on to how highly trained paratroopers cope with civilian life when the army makes them redundant. The six-part drama series reaches our screens just as the British army begins laying off 40,000 soldiers. The battle to survive on civvy street seems almost as tough as in a war zone. The reluctant solution for La Plante's fictional ex-paras is a slow slide into crime, wooed by a big-time villain (Peter O'Toole making a rare cameo appearance).

● **Hostages** (Wednesday, ITV, 8pm)
This is the controversial drama-documentary that Granada filmed in the teeth of opposition from the Beirut hostages John McCarthy and Brian Keenan. Their years of hell are shrunk into two hours by Bernard MacLaverty, a big-name writer served by big-name actors. McCarthy is played by Colin Firth, Jill Morrell by Natasha Richardson, and the American hostage Frank Reed by Harry Dean Stanton. Kathy Bates, who won a Best Actress Oscar for her part in the movie *Misery*, plays Terry Anderson's sister, Peggy Say. The film has become interwoven with bickering about who is cashing in on whom. Keenan's memoirs are due to be published on Thursday.

● **Present Imperfect** (Thursday, BBC2, 9.30pm)
This is a glimpse of the world of Max Clifford, who makes a living by getting his clients' names on to the front pages of the smaller newspapers. Among the tackier of showbiz PR fixers, Mr Clifford was the man who helped to promote the shy and retiring Pamela Bordes, before stepping in to transfer Antonia de Sancha from the arms of David Mellor into the clutches of the tabloids.

J.J.

Record review: Ronnie Wood, Sinéad O'Connor, *Chérubin*

Stone gathers moss at last

GIVEN his fifth man status in the Rolling Stones, it is surprising how many bands have been fashioned in the image of Ronnie Wood. Groups such as the Black Crowes and the Quireboys and the Dirty Strangers—staffed by undernourished-looking chaps with questionable guitar-playing techniques—have taken their cue as much from Wood's cavalier style as from the darker soul of his colleague Keith Richards.

But with four solo albums behind him, not one of which has registered in the chart, Wood has not had much luck in carving out a career in his own right. It has taken him until now to produce an album, *Slide on This* (Continuum 19210-2), that does justice to his ability.

Slide on This (the title refers to his guitar-playing) is a genial and unambitious collection which faithfully distils his elusive essence. With Charlie Watts on drums, the bar-room chug of "Josephine" (a cheeky elegy to Wood's wife) and a spirited 12-bar "Show Me",

ROCK

sound approximately like vintage Stones, with Wood producing the sub-Dylan drawl which all non-singing rock 'n' rollers seem to adopt when they suddenly find the microphone pointing their way.

There are a couple of scrappy ballads ("Always Wanted More" and "Breathe on Me"), touches of Memphis soul on "Somebody Else", and a lively country honk with fiddles and accordion ("Ragtime Annie"), but Wood remains mindful of his limitations and resists the temptation to reach for anything beyond his means. The result is a serviceable album with touches of roguish humour and warmth.

SINEAD O'Connor has yet to inspire anyone to copy her look, and her ungracious bawling of everyone from American rap star Hammer to the Pope has consolidated the impression of a brittle and unlovable performer unable to keep her radical passions on a leash. All the more surprising,



Solo success: Ronnie Wood's album justifies his ability

then, to find her tackling a collection of big-band show tunes on her latest album, *Am I Not Your Girl?* (Ensign 21952-2).

Backed by a 47-piece orchestra, she makes a fair stab at such standards as "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered", "I Want to Be Loved by You", "Gloomy Sunday" and even that pinnacle of 1970s kitsch "Don't Cry For Me

DAVID SINCLAIR

● Tonight at 10.20pm, BBC2 presents Sinéad O'Connor, which documents the making of *Am I Not Your Girl?*

More than froth to this Massenet

Rosina in *The Barber of Seville* turned into the unhappy Countess Almaviva in *Figaro*. But whatever happened to Cherubino, the ubiquitous page in love with every female in the Almaviva household? The answer was provided in an almost forgotten opera by Massenet, *Chérubin*: he just went on philandering.

Some Massenet critics have rejected *Chérubin* as a piece of dismissable froth. RCA proves otherwise in a highly attractive recording (09026 60593-2, 2 CDs) led by four of America's most accomplished singers—Frederica Von Stade, June Anderson, Samuel Ramey and Dawn Upshaw: just what *Chérubin* needs to savour its shimmering score, where pastiche mingles with outbursts of emotion typical of Massenet.

The flimsy story, taken from a boulevard comedy, has Cherubino suddenly besotted with L'Enseignat, leading dancer at the Madrid Ballet and favourite of the king. Von Stade, long one of the most delectable Cherubinos in Mozart's *Figaro*, gives him coltish grace and nudges him in the direction of Octavian in *Rosenkavalier*. Anderson is all vocal glitter as the diva who is not averse to the attentions of a toy boy for an evening, and their flirtation in Act II provides the climax of the opera. Ramey as Le Philosophe, Cherubino's tutor, takes a

OPERA

world-weary boys-will-be-boys attitude to his charge's activities. Upshaw sings prettily as his real sweetheart.

Much of the attraction of the score lies in the brilliance of the orchestral interludes: entractes, Spanish dances, diversions. Pinchas Steinberg and the Munich Radio Orchestra delight in these.

But it is not all Gallic sentiment. At the close, Massenet quotes a snatch from Don Giovanni's serenade: the hell fires may yet be round the corner for Cherubino.

RCA's *Falstaff* (09026 60705-2, 2 CDs) also comes from Munich, this time with the Bavarian Radio Orchestra. Sir Colin Davis opts for a vigorous Verdi, with a dash of Mendelssohnian moonlit magic thrown in. But there are question marks over his chosen cast for the recording.

Rolando Panerai is now in his late sixties and sounds an elderly Falstaff, a bit hard-pressed to keep all his flirtations going and having to resort to a few vocal tricks to do it. In any case, Panerai's regular role in this opera—and one at which he was excellent—was Ford, which

he recorded for Karajan and Bernstein. Here Alan Titus does well, but Panerai was better. Frank Lopardo, with his voice carrying more weight nowadays, is no longer the right choice for Fenton.

The women are happier, led by Marilyn Horne's managerial Quickley and a disarming Nanetta from Julie Kaufmann. Sharon Sweet's Alice could do with just a touch more confidence.

Davis's love for this opera is undoubted, but the competition in the catalogue is formidable.

JOHN HIGGINS

GUILTY SECRET: MIKE McSHANE



"When I lived in San Francisco I became frustrated with the way television was manipulating me, so I decided to fight back and manipulate the television. I bought a powerful magnet and rolled it around on top of the television set to distort the picture. If someone I didn't like came on, I could make them eat their own face! When George Bush was talking, I'd put the magnet next to his nose: the more lies he told the longer his nose grew, à la Pinocchio. Now I live in England, I watch *Neighbours* every day and, if I'm not home, my wife tapes it so that I can catch up. I think Joe Mangel is funny, and I like gift shop twin and her sister, hotel twin. They are so stiff: if you had two more of them you could make a cardboard box. I've often thought it would be fun to give *Neighbours* the magnet treatment: I could probably destroy Ramsey Street with a big enough one."

● Mike McShane is touring in *The Really Unexpected Show*.



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DIANA LEADBETTER

A fresh Norman conquest

Frances Bissell, the Times cook, picks up tips from the cream of Normandy's chefs



AS YOU enter Normandy, travelling west from Paris on small country roads, as I did earlier in the year to avoid the lorry drivers' blockades, you are reminded that it is a proudly agricultural land. "Non à la PAC", "Pas de pays sans paysans", "Pas de désertification de l'espace rural" and similar anti-Common Agricultural Policy slogans emerge from the orchards and cornfields.

Militant images sit uneasily alongside the other idyllic aspect of rural Normandy, where the native *vache normande* shares the rich pasture under the apple trees with the "foreign" *blonde d'Aquitaine*. Hedgerows and meadows are thick with a tapestry of wild flowers, which makes our own countryside look like barren wasteland.

Apart from the main business of my visit, which was to meet and eat with member chefs of the Association des Bonnes Tables de la Suisse Normande, and to encourage them in promoting the gastronomy of their corner of France, I also had time to explore some of the food production of the region. Where does one begin an article on Normandy food? With the *pommeau* and *poiré*? With the black pudding capital of the world? With the cream, perhaps, used frequently but not judiciously in sauces with fish, meat, poultry and desserts — since, as one of the chefs told me, "s'il n'y a pas de crème, ce n'est pas la cuisine normande".

Normandy cream, or *crème fraîche*, is special. At 30 per cent fat content, it is not nearly as rich as our own double cream, but it is thick and has a distinctive, sharp flavour, both qualities produced by the addition of lactic cultures. I have used it in several of my recipes today. Some branches of *Waitrose* and *Sainsbury's* sell *crème fraîche*, as do Neals' Yard Dairy and Selfridges in London and the Fine Cheese Company in Bath, among other places.

In Normandy, *crème fraîche* is made on small farms like that of

Gérard and Agnès Vallée at Origny in St Pierre la Vieille. They also produce marvellous unpasteurised soft cheese and washed rind cheeses, such as *Pont l'Évêque*. Nearby, the five Vallée brothers run a much larger concern at Le Grand Bérin, where they are the third largest producers of Camembert.

Three types of Camembert are produced in three different factories: Camembert from unpasteurised milk made by modern methods. Camembert from unpasteurised milk made by traditional methods — *moulé à la louche*, in which the curd is poured by hand from large ladles into the moulds to avoid breaking up the curd too much, and Camembert made from pasteurised milk. I came back laden with unpasteurised Camembert, *Pont l'Évêque* and *Livarot*, put them into the refrigerator and remembered to take them out two hours before serving, which chefs and cheese-makers alike assured me was the correct thing to do.

A newcomer to the group of foodstuffs which have an *appellation contrôlée* is *pommeau*. We are familiar with Normandy cider and its distillate, *Calvados*, but *pommeau de Normandie* is perhaps less well known. I have spent several instructive hours with M and Mme Claude Courvalet at their farm-house, Plainville, in Pierrefitte en Cinglais. We sipped the *pommeau* with an apricot tart and a *quatre quarts*, a plain but exquisitely soft and moist pound cake.

The *pommeau* is made from the juice of cider apples blended with *Calvados* and aged for at least 14 months in oak barrels before bottling. Their own production is aged for 18 months or so. Some say it should be chilled, some argue for it being served at room temperature. It is not unlike *Pineau des Charentes* in weight and character, chilled as an aperitif, it is hard to beat. Like *Pineau*, it is also very good in the kitchen.

Much more difficult in cooking is *poiré*, or perry, almost as common in the Suisse Normande as

cider. The *poiré sec* is very dry and crisp, with scarcely a *pétillance*; the *doux*, on the other hand, is very fizzy, which makes it a good ingredient in cocktails. In cooking, much of the flavour is lost and the acidity remains.

Potted Normandy cheese
(makes about 10oz/340g)
approx ½ a mature Camembert
approx ½ a *Pont l'Évêque*
3oz/85g unsalted butter
2tbsp *crème fraîche*
1-2tbsp fresh herbs

Discard the rind from the cheeses, slice or chop, and put in a food processor bowl. Add the rest of the ingredients and process until smooth. Pack into ramekins and serve as a starter, as the cheese course, or on fingers of hot toast as an accompaniment to the cocktail Suisse Normande.

Moules poudrée à la normande
(serves 4-6)
4lb/1.8kg mussels
¼ pt/140ml Normandy cider

2tbsp finely chopped shallots or onions
white pepper
2tbsp *pommeau*
¼ pt/140ml *crème fraîche* or soured cream
1 free-range egg yolk

Scrub the mussels under cold running water, knocking off any barnacles with the back of an old knife, and tug off the beard, or byssus. Discard any mussels that remain open. Rinse thoroughly, drain, and put in a lidded saucepan with the cider and half the shallots or onions. Put on the lid and raise the heat. Cook for 2-3 minutes until the mussels have steamed open. Remove from the heat, and strain the cooking liquid into a shallow saucepan through a very fine sieve or muslin to trap any sand or grit. Add the remaining shallots or onion, a little white pepper and the *pommeau*. Cook for 5-10 minutes over moderate heat, and then stir in the cream. Reduce further to taste. Meanwhile, remove one of the shells from each mussel, and divide the remaining mussels in the shell

among 4-6 soup plates. Beat the egg yolk with a little of the sauce, and then return it to the pan to heat through. At this stage, the sauce should not boil or the egg yolk will curdle. Pour the hot sauce over the mussels and serve immediately.

Glazed scallops and apples with coral sauce
(serves 4)
8-10 scallops
3 smallish dessert apples
1oz/30g unsalted butter
2tbsp dry cider
seasoning
2tbsp clear honey
2tbsp *pommeau*
pinch of ground cinnamon
chervil or watercress for decoration

Clean and trim the scallops. Remove the coral and put to one side. Slice each scallop into three circles. Peel, core and dice one of the apples and cook it in the butter until soft. Add the corals and the cider and cook gently for 3-4 minutes. Blend until smooth and

sieve. Season to taste. Spoon into four shallow heat-proof dishes. Mix the honey, *pommeau* and cinnamon. Peel, core, quarter and thinly slice the two remaining apples, and arrange with the scallops, interleaved alternately, in each dish. Brush with the glaze, and cook under a pre-heated grill for 4-5 minutes, until the surface edges are just beginning to caramelise but the rest remains barely cooked. Serve garnished with a little greenery.

Stuffed breast of guinea fowl
(based on *pintade fermière aux saveurs de la Suisse Normande*)
(serves 4)
3½ lb/1.6kg oven-ready free-range guinea fowl
2oz/60g chicken livers, trimmed
1 tart apple
2tbsp *Calvados*
2oz/60g *crème fraîche*
salt, pepper
1oz/30g unsalted butter

Carefully remove the breasts and legs from the carcass. Take off the

small fillet from the underside of each breast. Divide the leg into two joints. Bone the thigh. Remove all the meat from the drumsticks and mince or process this, together with the fillet meat and the chicken livers. Peel, core and finely dice the apple, and add it to the meat, together with the *Calvados*, cream and seasoning. Cut a deep pocket in each breast. Stuff the breasts and thighs with the mixture, securing them closed with cocktail sticks. Butter an oven-proof dish, put in the meat, dot with remaining butter, cover with foil, and bake in a pre-heated oven at 220°C/425°F, gas mark 7 for 15-20 minutes. Serve half a breast and half a thigh for each portion, with the cooking juices poured over it.

● The guinea fowl recipe is based on one from the collection prepared by l'Association des Bonnes Tables de la Suisse Normande, available from Charles Corlet Editions, 21 route de Vire, 14110 Condé sur Noireau, France. ● *Poiré* and *pommeau* are available from the Old Stock Wine Co 071-729 17681, for £1.97 and £6.75 a bottle respectively.

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Recipes for instant success

Fast food can also be delicious food if you make it yourself

Two or three years ago I would come in from work, tired and hungry, and throw into the oven whichever cook-chill supermarket meal had taken my fancy. I was very much part of the cook-chill generation of shoppers, flying round the supermarket at ten minutes to eight, hungry for the latest time-saving instant supper. The more luxurious the better — chicken tarragon or Kiev, marinated lamb kebabs, pasta with carbonara sauce or sole Veronique. All would be hot and ready within half an hour.

On the evenings that I missed the supermarket I had a choice of take-aways or home deliveries. I could pick up some of the best fish and chips in London on my way home, or wait till I walked in the door and dial for an Indian or Chinese (or Thai or Mexican) meal, or pizza, to be biked to my flat.

Marks & Spencer's chilled, prepared dishes were the best of the lot, and seemed like manna from heaven when I was too busy to soak dried beans, skin oxtails or roll pastry. After all, I had trained as a chef and knew very well that good food cannot also be fast food; good food requires proper equipment and long recipes.

I am not quite sure what brought about the sudden change in my cooking and eating. It may well have been a particularly large bill at the supermarket or a gippy tummy from not heating a cook-chill meal thoroughly. It may have been just an increasing boredom with the blandness of all chilled prepared meals. I suspect, though, that my cooking changed after an exceptionally dull dinner party. I had shopped for the most suitable ready-made dishes available, and as we sat down to eat I realised that there was not one item I had prepared myself. I felt that I had let both my guests and myself down.

Shortly afterwards I started collecting quick recipes for everyday eating. At first it was substantial sandwiches, then

stir-fries, which proved to be quicker than waiting in line at the Chinese take-away.

I am now less than convinced about the speed of a supermarket supper: it takes a good half-hour to reheat a cook-chill dish of sole Veronique, and yet only six minutes to pan-fry a fillet of sole and a further two to pour a little wine and cream into its pan-jucies and toss in a few seedless grapes.

I have applied the same principle to classics such as beef stroganoff or trout with almonds, or even a more distinguished dish like chicken tarragon. They can all be made in minutes by even the most ham-fisted of cooks.

Tarragon chicken
Avoid chicken breasts which have had their skin removed: it is important for keeping the moisture in as it cooks.
4 large boneless chicken breasts
20oz/60g butter
8 sprigs fresh tarragon
8oz/250ml double cream
salt
2-3tsp tarragon vinegar or lemon juice

Slice the chicken breasts into strips about ½ in wide. Melt the butter in a shallow pan over a medium heat. Strip the tarragon leaves from their stems. When the butter starts to sizzle, add the chicken pieces and tarragon. Cook until the chicken has coloured slightly, about three minutes.

Move the chicken around the pan but remember that the skin must turn golden in order to give it a good flavour. Check that it is almost cooked by cutting a strip in half. Pour in the cream and let it simmer until it thickens slightly, about another three minutes. Add salt and a teaspoon of vinegar or lemon juice, taste, then add a second, then taste again and add a third if you wish.

NIGEL SLATER

● Nigel Slater's collection of quick recipes, *Real Fast Food*, is published on October 1 by Michael Joseph (£14.99)



Speedy solutions: Nigel Slater whips up a chicken dish

"IT'S ALL STRAWBERRIES



Here at Wilkin & Sons we don't very often take on new staff. Our employees stay for lifetimes, even generations. But very occasionally we do employ someone new. It's a salutary experience to a company who might be thought of as a little 'set' in their ways to understand things might be done differently.

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The last in Clare Connery's series on the pleasures and traditions of Irish cooking

Although bread in all its many guises is the cornerstone of the Irish baking tradition, it does not stand alone, and today the full range of baking skills is still predominantly on display. These can be seen not only on the afternoon tea tables, renowned throughout the world for their range and quality, but in the many bakeries and coffee shops, particularly in the north of Ireland. Here you will find every kind of cake, oatcakes and biscuits, sweet fancies referred to as tray bakes, and fruit tarts.

These baked goods, whether bread or cakes, were not only a feature of afternoon tea but appeared on many meal tables throughout the day. In the morning, griddle, oven or dropped scones would be served sometime between breakfast and lunch along with the ubiquitous cup of tea; in the evening, a full range of baked goods, including pastry tarts, scones, biscuits, bread and cakes, would be served as part of the high-tea table, the main evening meal, and then later on at supper. At harvest time, too, came the ritual of "taking tea to the field". Many a time I helped carry a laden basket across fields, and spread the bleached white flour bag or gingham cloth below a haystack.

Irish baking is very much part of the Irish tradition of hospitality, and it is a poor home that cannot offer some treat to a friend or passing stranger.



BROWN SODA OR WHEATEN BREAD

Aras Cruithneachta

The proportions of wholemeal and white flour used to produce this type of soda bread greatly depends on individual taste and whether or not a very light or rough texture is required. I prefer to use stoneground wholemeal flour with a little extra bran and germ added to raise the fibre content as well as to enrich the bread.

12oz/350g wholemeal flour, stoneground, medium or coarse
4oz/100g plain flour
1tsp/5ml salt
1 heaped tsp/5ml bicarbonate of soda
1tbsp/15ml wheat or oat bran
1tbsp/15ml wheat or oat germ
1-2oz/25-50g butter
14-16 fl oz/400-475ml buttermilk

Put the wholemeal flour into a large mixing bowl and sieve in the plain flour, salt and bicarbonate of soda. Stir in the bran, germ and caster sugar, mixing thoroughly to combine all the ingredients. Cut the butter into small pieces and rub into the flour mixture until well dispersed. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients, and pour in all the milk. Mix with a broad-bladed knife, working very quickly and gently until all the dry ingredients have been drawn



Dining al fresco: "taking tea to the field" was a harvest ritual

Freshly baked

together to form a loose dough, a bit like thick porridge. It is important not to overwork the dough, otherwise it will become tough.

Lightly grease a 7in/18cm round cake tin or 6in/15cm square tin (12-2 1/2 in/4-7cm deep) and turn the dough into it, leaving the surface rough. Sprinkle with wholemeal flour and bran to give a nutty surface. Set on a hot baking tray and bake at 220C/425F, gas mark 7, for ten minutes, then reduce the heat to 200C/400F, gas mark 6, and cook for a further 40-45 minutes until the bread is well risen, brown and firm to the touch. When the bread is cooked, a skewer inserted into the centre of it should come out clean. The bread should also sound hollow when

tapped. Remove from the oven and cover with a clean cloth. When cool, remove from the tin and wrap in the cloth to go cold. All the soda breads are better eaten on the day of baking.



OATCAKES

Bannaga Aras Coirce

These simple flat cakes were made from a mixture of oatmeal, water and sometimes lard, and baked on the griddle over a turf fire or on a warmed hearthstone. They were then transferred to a wooden stand called a "hardening" or "hurner" and stood in front of the fire, where they dried out.

Today they are baked either on the griddle or in the oven and eaten with cheese.

makes 8 farls/12 biscuits
8oz/230g medium or fine oatmeal
2oz/60g plain flour
1/2 tsp/2.5ml bicarbonate of soda
1/2 tsp/2.5ml cream of tartar
1/2 tsp/2.5ml salt
2 fl oz/50ml water
2oz/60g butter, margarine, lard or bacon dripping
extra oatmeal for working the cake

Put the oatmeal into a large bowl and sieve in the plain flour with the bicarbonate of soda, cream of tartar and salt. Make a well in the centre of the mixture. Heat the water in a small saucepan and add the fat. Bring to boiling point and quickly pour into the well in the dry ingredients and work together, using a spoon, until the mixture holds together. Sprinkle a board or work surface with a little extra oatmeal and set the spongy mixture on top, scatter with more oatmeal, then roll into a round cake about 9in/23cm in diameter and 1/2 in/3mm thick, making sure that the dough is not sticking to the surface. Scatter some oatmeal on top of the cake and rub it in with the palm of the hand. Cut into eight farls.

If using a griddle, have it pre-heated to temperature and place the farls on top. Bake over a moderate heat until the oatcakes have completely dried out and are a pale golden colour. They can also be baked on a floured baking sheet in the oven at 180C/350F, gas mark 4, 40 minutes.



SAFFRON BISCUITS

Brisceal Croch

Saffron was a popular spice in the 18th century. In this recipe from the 1742 "recipe book of Bishop Stoy of Clogher, it is used with caraway seeds to make afternoon-tea biscuits.

makes 20 biscuits
4oz/120g butter
3oz/90g caster sugar
8oz/240g plain flour
generous pinch of powdered saffron or a 0.1g sachet
1/2 tsp/1.25ml caraway seeds
1tbsp/15ml milk to bind

Lightly grease a baking tray with oil or white fat. Cream the butter and sugar until pale in colour. Stir in the flour and caraway seeds. Dissolve the saffron in the milk and add to the other ingredients, mixing to a stiff dough by hand. Roll out to 1/4 in/3mm thick on a lightly-floured work surface and cut into biscuits. Transfer to a baking tray and bake at 180C/350F, gas mark 4, for 20-25 minutes.

• Taken from In An Irish Country Kitchen by Clare Connery, published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, price £18.99.
© Clare Connery, 1992

A taste of consoling northern comfort

ENTERTAINING AT HOME: RABBI LIONEL BLUE

I entertain a lot and it's always informal. As a minister and a rabbi, people bring me their problems, and it's so much nicer to deal with them over a cuppa and something to eat. It has to be something easy. The idea is to show people that you care about them, and food is the equivalent of putting an arm around their shoulders. Nursery treats such as cinnamon toast are the best.

My favourite comfort food, which I give to the very young or the very old, is old-fashioned northern Cony-Only Butties — condensed milk sandwiches. You just use plastic white bread with butter on for a sandwich and put a thick layer of condensed milk inside. If you really want to go to town, you can add some chocolate flakes on top.

You can also do a lot with a tin of chestnut purée. I mix it with curd cheese, a bit of vanilla, a drop of rum, and form it into a sort of pyramid. Then I pour hot chocolate over, which solidifies.

I used to give dinner parties a lot. You know, the standard thing: eight people, four courses, two wines. Nowadays I give dinner suppers, and they are usually vegetarian. You can get very good vegetarian substitutes, vegetarian frankfurters, for example. I am almost totally vegetarian now and the only thing I really miss in the meat line is the old-fashioned banger.

I became interested in cooking because of my grandmother, who came from Russia. We had a deal: she loved children's comics, but couldn't read English. So I'd translate the writing in the balloons for her and, in return, she would give me bits of giblets and applesauce.

A tremendous mixture of people eat in my kitchen; my fellow rabbis and their husbands and wives, and my mother and aunt, both aged over 90, who live with me. My mother's a dreadful cook, so I have to do the cooking.

Sometimes you find yourself in the situation where you're just about to go to bed and there's a knock at the door. A lot of guests have arrived: there's been a mix up and we've all got the wrong day. The last thing you should do is



Eat, drink and be comforted: Rabbi Lionel Blue's creed

try to cover up. Laugh about it, and invite them in. After all, God created the off-limits and the fish and chip shop. In my experience, most people do not mind laying tables and washing up because it gives them a chance to see the inside of your kitchen drawers.

Everything happens in my kitchen; I like a radio, a glass of cooking sherry and just pottering around. There is a wonderful range now of semi-prepared foods and, if you're intelligent about thinking through recipes, you can come up with lots of things which are no trouble to cook.

With an ordinary onion soup, you can put a little bit of sugar over the onions as you are frying them so that they caramelise. Another trick is to put in a big slug of British sherry, which gives the soup a lovely richness.

I prefer recipes that are un-neurotic. You can do very well with fish fillets: just put them

in a greased baking dish, cover with grated cheese, chopped chives and a little paprika and bake for 20 minutes.

A stew is a stew: you put the mixed herbs in or you take them out. There are only a basic number of dishes after all and every cook makes their own variations.

I am 62, and all affection has been scoured out of me. So I enjoy my dinner parties too.

Lionel Blue's vegetarian couscous salad

You take a packet of couscous, wash it and soak it overnight in the juice of about six lemons. Then you mix up lots of salad things like chopped spring onions, peeled, seeded tomatoes and peeled cucumbers, and anything else you can think of. You will find the lemon juice cooks the couscous and you do not have to do anything. It all swells up. Mix this lot all together and you'll find you have a tremendous amount for everybody.

Interview by Paddy Durr

Nod your way to fine, cheap wines

Jane MacQuitty tells how to pick up a bargain at this autumn's wine auctions

BUYING wine at auction is fun and fairly straightforward. With luck, plus a little pre-planning, some astonishingly good bargains can be had.

While the prices at the wine auctions starting this week are not the lowest the salerooms have seen, they have fallen steadily since their 1990 peak. Taking into account the extraordinary run of great vintages in the 1980s now going under the hammer, this is a prime time to buy.

Keepe though the saleroom prices will be this season, they will not, alas, drop through the floor as they did in 1974 and 1975 when the oil crisis, combined with the dire '72 vintage, resulted in massive unloading by the trade. Christie's sold a record 500,000 bottles at one two-day sale for Bass Charrington.

The wine trade is in poor shape at present, however: Laytons has £3 million of wine to sell for the agent Atkinson Baldwin, and a distinguished Bordeaux firm has cut its prices by half while other Bordeaux quietly unload. Several UK wine merchants are unlikely to survive until Christmas. This lack of confidence, combined with rumours of a large, rot-affected '92 Bordeaux harvest, and the continuing lack of American interest because of the weak dollar, will keep saleroom wine prices low.

Armed with this knowledge, where should you start? Claret and vintage port are the two great wine concerns of the saleroom. Both wines mature steadily over many years, and therefore have wide auction-room appeal.

First growths and the top seconds, such as Pichon-Lalande, Cos d'Estournel, Léoville-Las Cases and Léoville-Barton, are obvious buys, but Bordeaux's lesser wines from third, fourth and fifth growths are worth considering, too.

With so many great 1980s claret vintages on offer, it is hard to choose between them. The '82 is the best, but prices have mostly held steady since



Nosing out a good bargain: tasting sessions are held before most wine auction sales

they were released. Still, for those claret drinkers who did not manage to buy these wines en primeur, or early on, this autumn's auctions could be the last chance to buy the '82s at reasonable prices.

More appealing auction-room clarets are the good value '81s and '83s, both tipped by Michael Broadbent of Christie's, and Serena Sutcliffe of Sotheby's. Many of the '83s are drinking deliciously, without the aggressive tannins of other 1980s vintages, Ms Sutcliffe says. She describes the '81s as "seriously under-priced".

Other good claret vintages are the excellent, yet balanced '85s and the firmer, more classic, slower maturing '86s. Even the '88s and '89s should not be ignored, and Mr Broadbent highlights "for value and drinkability" the useful, underrated '87 vintage.

Perhaps the soundest reason for buying one of the golden 1980s claret vintages at auction is the realisation that wines of their ilk are

unlikely to come around in the 1990s. Mr Broadbent says, blaming bad weather and a lack of wine-making interest because of the recession.

Vintage port is even more of a saleroom bargain, although there is less of it available precisely because of the low prices it has been fetching. The prized '77 vintage has not had the lift-off in price that was expected, and is now reasonably mature. Even the superb '63s are mostly fetching well under £300 a case.

LESS pricey port vintages in the 1980s with more general appeal include the '80s, '82s and '83s, and there will be plenty of those on offer at affordable prices. Look out too for the reportedly superior '85 vintage. Leading port wine producers to plump for are Taylor's, Graham, Dow, Warre, Fonseca and Noval. If you can buy only one case at auction, it should be vintage port.

Other auction-room wine buys to snap up are the greatly

undervalued German wines, and even white burgundy. Ms Sutcliffe says single domaine, premier cru chablis is a "tremendous bargain".

So if you are after fine, or slightly less fine, vintage wine and you happen to be in London, call in at Christie's in St James's this autumn on Thursdays, having gone to the sale's free tasting the day before. Sotheby's sales, which offer a bit of everything, are less frequent and held most months on Wednesdays.

Christie's sales of cheaper, mixed good to fine wine and bin ends are held at its South Kensington premises on Monday evenings, with a tasting before the auction.

If you have not bought wine at auction before, be aware of the pitfalls. The trick, Christie's says, is not to be over-awed; phone first, and ask lots of questions. Order the catalogue in advance and bone up on auction room etiquette and jargon. The leaflet "Buying & Selling Wine at Christie's" is free from its King Street address (see left), and makes a good starting point for auction-room novices — as does the realisation that VAT at 17.5 per cent, plus a 10 per cent buyer's premium and often a £5 delivery charge unless you collect the wine yourself, will all be added to the hammer price.

Before making your auction bid, attend a few sales to get used to the atmosphere. Bidding can go at a cracking pace, but if you have absorbed the procedures and worked out a firm upper limit for the wines you want, some cut-price vintage wine could be yours.

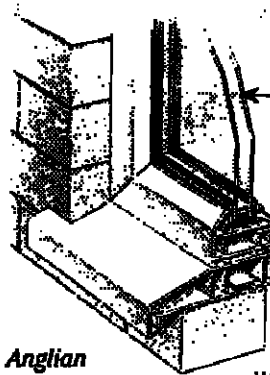
Best auction buys and venues

- Good value, good drinking claret years such as '81 and '83.
- Classic claret vintages such as '82, '85 and '86.
- Lesser, young fruity port vintages such as '80, '82 and '83.
- Classic, more mature port years such as '63 and '77.
- Christie's wine department, 8 King Street, St James's, SW1 (071-839 9060). Next sale Thursday September 24: claret and white Bordeaux, 10.30am. Tasting on Wednesday September 23, 11am-1pm, at same address. Christie's South Kensington is at 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7811).
- Sotheby's wine department, 5 Albion Wharf, Hester Road, London SW11 (071-924 3287). Next sale Wednesday September 23, 10.30am and 2.30pm, at St George Street Gallery, 1-2 St George Street, London W1. Tasting on Tuesday September 22, 5.30pm, at same address.

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All the news that's fit to print in black and white

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

This week I grasped one last bite of the summer before autumn took over. Like a man clutching at the last of the falling blossom and hoping to capture the spring, I took the horses and mowed to the field of lucerne and made hay. Mid-September is not the normal hay-making season but lucerne is a generous crop which has given us three harvests this year. I have read that some years she will give four. But it is not for her generosity that I admire her — it is her scent. The perfume of the lucerne when it has been cut and allowed to wilt in a desiccating northwesterly breeze has a seductive quality that Parisian perfumers would be hard pressed to match.

At least, that is how I felt about it on Friday. On Saturday it rained, and the lucerne became just another sodden, mucky mass. That, I have found, is traditional

farming. Romance, one minute and a slap in the face the next.

But this is by-the-way, compared with the news you are eagerly expecting on the developing relationship between me and our new white cow, Sage. Last week I poured out my broken heart about how, despite lavishing generous sums of money to buy a cow with which I could develop a working relationship, things got off on the wrong foot.

My approaches were met with indifference. Even a bucket of sugar-beet nuts (the equivalent of giving a girl a good dinner in the hope of a goodnight kiss) was spurned. I rashly promised further reports.

Well, you are not going to get



any. It has become all too clear that public scrutiny is no help in healing shaky relationships: too easy to read false truths into brief glimpses of other people's lives. For example, I brought her into the farmyard a couple of days ago for testing by the ministry's vet. I managed to slip a halter on her and lead her down the farm.

Had you seen us on this formal public occasion you might have thought we were the happiest couple in the world. Yet ten minutes later, as I released her from her capture, she slid out a rear foot with the clear intention of giving me a hefty kick. Had you caught only that moment in your telephoto lens, you would have a story about our union being heavily



on the rocks. Neither picture is entirely true. I shall make a statement in due course. No doubt the man with the long lens from the parish magazine will be snooping around, hoping for exclusive pic-

tures of me mucking out the pigs wearing a footballer's costume. But I have determined to say nothing and will change the subject.

I do not know if it is the whiteness of the new cow that has inspired

me, but I have decided to discover the joys of whitewash and spruce up the stable, which can get rather gloomy in winter. I could easily have opted for a nice tin of Dulux but, as you will be well aware, we never do anything the easy way here. Anyway, whitewash is a quarter the price and from an artistic point of view has an instant antique texture that no modern paint can match.

I discovered it is made by dangerously mixing hydrated lime and water, during which process great heat is produced. This is then used to allow tallow, or candle wax, to be melted into the white slush to give it elasticity. I was about to set up a witch's cauldron and mix a gallon or two when a visitor told me of a man who sells it ready-mixed in tins. It comes with a health warning. "It can sting can this stuff," he told me. "I found that out the hard way, I did." He fingered

the zip on his trousers and grimaced.

Wearing gloves, and forgoing my morning gallon of tea in case I should accidentally repeat his stinging experience, I slipped away till I resembled the white cow myself. Then ghost-like, I ambled round the corner to where the young Large Black sow, Phoebe, had given birth to ten piglets some hours before. All was well: ten silky black babies, each secured to a teat and sucking like vacuum cleaners.

It occurred to me that the news of the birth. She is easily upset by events past her. Plastered in whitewash I stumbled to the orchard and broke the news. There was a grunt which I took to mean "Rejoice, Rejoice. We are a grandmother." And there you have it. The latest news from this farm — in black and white. At least, all the news that's fit to print.

Heritage homework

Nicky Hughes meets a National Trust administrator

A shadowy figure stands, half-hidden, in the bushes. He has no business being there; it is dusk and the house and grounds are closed. Graham Damant, armed with a walking stick and reluctant dog, challenges the intruder, sending him off the premises with a few sharp words. All part of a day's work for a National Trust administrator.

In Mr Damant's care is Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire's greatest country house. Built in the mid-17th century with later contributions by architects James Gibbs, Henry Filmer and Sir John Soane, it has 350 acres of parkland shaped by Capability Brown and Humphrey Repton, a Gothic folly and Chinese bridge, a model farm specialising in rare breeds of livestock and 2,000 acres of estate.

Mr Damant took on the job seven years ago and says it was very much sink or swim. "Someone said to me, 'Here's a list of the house contents', someone else said, 'Here's how you do the accounts', and the night before I took over I went to the pub with the land agent who said, 'Here are the keys'." He has been swimming valiantly, assisted by his wife, Olga, ever since.

Wimpole Hall and its estate was bequeathed to the Trust in 1976 by Elsie Bambridge, Rudyard Kipling's daughter. She and her husband had rescued the property just before the second world war, when it was neglected and almost empty of contents. The couple filled it with antiques bought on their travels and in the salerooms, making it

into a home and giving the grand old house a relaxed and intimate atmosphere. But when Mrs Bambridge died she left no accompanying endowment to pay for its maintenance and repair. As a result Wimpole, like one in five Trust properties, has to be completely self-financing.

One of the key aspects of Mr Damant's job, therefore, is generating income. The economic realities are harsh. "On any one day I could walk round the estate and easily identify £4 million-worth of work that needs doing," he says. Set against this is his expected annual operating surplus of £100,000. "Increasing visitor numbers is vital," he says. "With farming generally going down, it's the only area we can expand."

Each year, 80,000 people visit the house. Soane's model farm — a great thatched and weather-boarded barn full of historic farming implements, an octagonal dairy, tiled and marbled, and outbuildings housing rare cattle, sheep and goats — draws 110,000. There is a fine balance between visitor pressure and income. "If I publicise the house too much everyone is going to come on a bank holiday," he says. "You get 2,000 people jostling each other

and bumping into furniture. They don't enjoy themselves as much as they'd hoped."

Staging events where there can be greater control over timing and location is the key to attracting more visitors and filling the coffers, Mr Damant believes. "Of course we have to freeze a historic property in time because it helps us understand our culture but, at the same time, events bring the place alive."

Dreaming up money-making schemes is his forte. Today Wimpole hosts opera and concerts, wedding receptions — from a simple buffet to grander celebrations which include a tour of the mansion and fireworks displays — classic car rallies in the grounds, craft fairs and open-air jazz. "To do all this you have to have an infrastructure to cope," he says, so he has put in train the rebuilding of the once-dilapidated Victorian stable block, which now houses a cafe, shop, toilets and visitor centre.

Children's enjoyment of Wimpole is dear to Mr Damant's heart, and a full-time education officer organises living history projects. Young children can dress as Victorian servants and act out their roles in the basement housekeeper's room, butler's pantry, servants' hall and the main house.

Mr Damant's day-to-day job is one of co-ordination. His farm manager may come and discuss the need for extra staff during haymaking; the head warden the role of offenders sent by the probation office to do community service on the estate; the house



Our houses in their hands: Olga and Graham Damant, caring for Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire

custodian disabled access. "Operating this place is all about letting the managers do the work," he says. "I'm only needed to sort out the problems."

Mr and Mrs Damant live in an enormous apartment within the house, each room bigger than the entire little cottage they own elsewhere. Privacy is an inevitable

casualty of the job, but the compensations far outweigh the disadvantages. Not just the satisfaction that comes from successfully running a complicated cocktail of history and commerce, but the sheer pleasure of the location. "Every morning I look out over wonderful parkland," he says. "I see hares and stoats, little owls and green woodpeckers.

There's such peace and quiet and tranquility."

Wimpole Hall, Arrington, Cambridgeshire (CB23 7JTS). The farm is open from 10.30am-5pm and the house 1-5pm every day except Monday and Friday. Wimpole Hall is closed from November to the end of March. £4.40 adult; £4.40 for child (65 for both); child £1.50 farm, £2 hall (£2.50 both).

Events

- Grand Henham steam rally: Steam engines, vintage cars, motor cycles, military vehicles. Henham Park, Blythburgh, Suffolk (A12/A145). Today and tomorrow, 10.30am-dusk. £2.50-£3.
- Hilly Hill Polo Cup: Field includes local teams. New Park, Blythburgh, Hampshire (0590 23205/22409). Today, 2.30pm. £5.
- Darlington championship dog show: Hounds, terriers, utility and toy groups today, Gundogs and working groups tomorrow. South Park, Darlington, Durham (0325 312484). Today and tomorrow, 9.30pm. £2, comes 50p.
- Frampton county sports fair: Demonstrations of angling, falconry, sheepdogs, Gundogs, game fishing, boat safety and day shoot. The Park, Frampton Court, Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire (0452 740698). Tomorrow, 10am-6pm. £3.
- Battle of Britain air show: Seven-hour flying display including the Red Arrows, Nato aircraft, the French Air Force display team, Spitfires and Hurricanes. RAF Leuchars, Fife (0334 839471). Today, 8am-6pm, £7.50, concert £5, family £20.
- Heavy horse show: Demonstrations and rides. Normanby Park Farming Museum, Normanby, South Humberside (0734 720824). Tomorrow, 1-4.30pm. Free.
- Scarborough angling festival: On-shore and on-boat fishing competitions. Scarborough Sea Shore, Scarborough, North Yorkshire (0723 85480). Today-Sept 27, various times. Free to spectators.

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LADIES	LADIES	LADIES	LADIES	SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS	GENTLEMEN	GENTLEMEN	GENTLEMEN
<p>THE HARTY EXCHANGE To be perfectly honest, they're not all Californian girls. There's a selection of lovely, intelligent, single women who would not normally consider joining an introduction or marriage agency, but who are looking for a serious relationship. Call for more details.</p> <p>'BRIDGING THE ATLANTIC' THE HARTY EXCHANGE 31 WATLING STREET, CANTERBURY Tel: (0222) 767234 (4 lines) Fax: (0222) 780687</p>	<p>CAROL, sharing Fred Bear, 40, 5'10", 160lb, blonde, brown eyes, very attractive, intelligent, successful, single, looking for a serious relationship. Call for more details.</p> <p>CONTINENTAL, 40, 5'10", 160lb, blonde, brown eyes, very attractive, intelligent, successful, single, looking for a serious relationship. Call for more details.</p> <p>SEVERAL, 40, 5'10", 160lb, blonde, brown eyes, very attractive, intelligent, successful, single, looking for a serious relationship. 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What's astir in the thickened soup?

Feather report

Alphabet soup is one of the great curses of our age. Conservation is littered with letters, horrors lurk behind acronyms and hide among sub-clauses and sub-committees. But since I last wrote about it a year ago, the broth has got much thicker. Here is an updated guide to the alphabet soup of conservation.

SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest. This is the bedrock of conservation legislation. There are 5,500 SSSIs in Britain, covering 7 per cent of the land surface. Once a site has been declared an SSSI it should be sacrosanct. Would this were the case: visit the Flow Country and Morich More, both in Scotland, Dorset heathland, and Thorne and Hatfield Moors near Doncaster, Yorkshire, to see how even with this high designation the will to conserve is lacking at the top.

RSPB: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. Rich charity with large membership. An increasingly radical campaigning body for conservation. Largest voluntary wildlife conservation body in Europe.

LEJ: Little Brown Job. Anything from a dunnock (unbelievably common) to an aquatic warbler (rather rare). Simply a small brown bird, but often a fiendish identification conundrum. Bird books are full of them. LEJs often have a lovely song, but that is no help outside spring. These are unglamorous birds that cling to anonymity.

ESA: Environmentally Sensitive Area. Places that are good for wildlife because of the way they are farmed. Example: lowland wet grassland and reedbeds are essential for water-loving birds, and would be destroyed by agricultural drainage. Under the European regulations that govern ESAs, farmers are paid to farm in an environmentally friendly fashion.

In general terms, this tends to involve lower intensity, fewer fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides, lower yields and lower energy costs.

NCC: Nature Conservancy Council. Formerly the government's statutory conservation body. It was disbanded under a classic divide-and-rule ploy by the Thatcher government. This effective piece of tooth-pulling left us with:

EN, SNH and CCW: English Nature, Scottish Natural Heritage and the Countryside Council for Wales. These are existing quangos that do their best in reduced circumstances.

JNCC: Joint Nature Conservation Committee: body that represents all three above organisations. It does not replace the NCC: there is a not-



Little Brown Job: the dunnock

so subtle difference between representing a single organisation and co-ordinating three.

LRP: Little ringed plover. The only British breeding bird that is almost invariably referred to by its initials.

RSCN: Royal Society for Nature Conservation, the body that represents all the county wildlife trusts. If you are at all serious about conservation, you should be a member of your county wildlife trust: think global, act local, even in London.

SPA: Special Protection Area. These, under European law, are the most important bird areas in Europe. The EC directive requires member states to identify SPAs and take steps to preserve them. There are 238 potential SPAs in Britain. By last June, fewer than a quarter of them had been designated; one of the worst records in Europe, and another example of the government's attitude to conservation.

NTV: Not-Tickable View. Twitching term. If you are told that an overflying speck is a Baird's sandpiper, but you cannot in all conscience identify it for yourself and therefore tick it, that is an NTV. Any twitcher will instantly own up to an NTV — so long as he or she already has Baird's on the list.

ICBP: International Council for Bird Preservation: Cambridge-based body with pan-galactic view of conservation. Hot on biodiversity, and the notion that extinction is the ultimate wildlife crime.

The alphabet soup is boiling over, but we must fight for our SSSIs and our LEJs or the world will not be worth living in.

SIMON BARNES

What's about: Birds — meadow pipits returning to lowland winter sites. Twitches — lanceolated warbler, Sooty Tern, Shetland, cirque waggler, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly; many grey phalaropes around the country. Details from Birdline, 0898 700222.

Rosie Atkins meets
a couple who
bought a designer
garden for £8,000

Taking on a garden in the country after moving from a mews house in London was daunting for Martin and Linda Hunter. The front garden of their new home in Weybridge, Surrey, comprised an assortment of rhododendrons, birch and Scots pines, happy in the acid soil. But they felt the back garden was boring and characterless.

The Hunters' cream-painted house, built about 1947, has an open, almost Mediterranean, feel. They have always enjoyed modern furniture and sculpture and decided to cheer up the garden by commissioning a fountain from the sculptor Polly Jones. Eventually, a magnificent marble fountain, with entwined fish, replaced the apple tree on the lawn, but created a new problem. "We loved the fountain but somehow it just made the rest of the garden look even more dreary," says Mrs Hunter who, like her husband, is a lawyer.

Then, while he was watching the BBC2's *Gardens by Design*, Mr Hunter saw a garden created by Paul Cooper, a sculptor turned garden designer, and decided to get in touch. Despite the relatively small size of the Hunters' back garden — about 200ft wide by 80ft deep, much of the original land having been sold for development — Mr Cooper agreed to meet them.

Mrs Hunter says they were nervous at first, because they did not want anyone to impose ideas on them which they were not brave enough to say they did not like. But Mr Cooper spent a lot of time discussing ideas, and got a feel for the Hunters' style by looking around the house. He was attracted by a recently installed stained glass window, which throws splashes of colour down the stairwell. Later he produced drawings based on a series of circles, echoing the pattern of the stained glass window. The Hunters were captivated.

There were two main problems with the garden for Mr Cooper: the featureless lawn, and the wide but limited depth of space, dominated by a neighbour's 20ft high leylandii hedge. "In a small garden a change of level can look twice," says Mr Cooper, who prefers to use architectural plans to add height or, as in this case, the structural shape of a pergola.

A path and a river of water-worn pebbles now connect the fountain



Something different in back gardens: Linda Hunter and the designer Paul Cooper on the patch that became a modernistic vision

with a textured, white-painted wooden sphere at the end of the garden which is dissected by fat slices of glass that glint like a cascade of water.

The pergola gives the garden greater depth and a more interesting view from the windows," Mr Cooper says.

The Hunters negotiated with their neighbour to cut 4ft from the top of the hedge, which brought more light into the garden. They had automatic watering systems put in, and Mr Cooper designed a screen to hide the greenhouse and vegetable garden. "The screen also shades the greenhouse in summer, which is ideal," Mrs Hunter says.

The work was carried out when the plants were dormant, so the horticulturalist, Jo Matthews, was able to move some existing plants which reduced costs. Mrs Hunter was particularly interested in the planning scheme and thinks she probably drove Ms Matthews mad with her questions. "I refused to have ornamental grasses, having nearly bankrupted myself on vets'

fees with a cat who insisted on eating the wrong kind of grass," she says.

A large evergreen pyracantha arbour, planted against an arch on the back wall of the house, had to be replaced because it was affected by honey fungus. Mr Cooper designed an aluminium arch, which emphasised the detail on the house rather than obscuring it. The arch supports a wisteria, which looks magnificent all year, with purple flowers, lush summer foliage and bare twisted stems in winter.

Mr Cooper visited the garden four or five times to see how the work was progressing. The most memorable visit was during the building of his "Greening of Industry Garden" at this year's Chelsea Flower Show for the chemical company pbi, designed for Pershore College of Horticulture in Worcestershire. When the Hunters heard he had won a gold medal, and the "Sword of Excellence" for the best garden at the show, they broke open the champagne.

The Hunters obviously enjoy the relationship they have built up with artists and designers. "Here in Britain we prefer to buy the past rather than invest in the future, which is a pity," Mrs Hunter says. "In America they love buying modern sculpture because there is so little past to buy."

Many of Mr Cooper's early sculptures, based on the geometry of plants and created from metal, wood and stone, have found their way into American museums and collections. "Sculpture is a great way into a more unconventional approach to garden design," says Mr Cooper, who feels horticulture is steeped in too much tradition.

Initially the Hunters tried setting out their ideas on paper, and almost bought a large number of specimen trees to make their back garden more interesting, but realised now they could have made an expensive mistake. "We want to live here for the rest of our lives and we didn't want a garden which would require a great deal of maintenance," Mr Hunter says. Mr Cooper took this into account, with the result that the Hunters have a custom-made garden which they feel has been worth every penny.

So what did it all cost? Mr Cooper charged £500 for the drawing, which Mrs Hunter has traced and made into an embroidery. The construction work, which came within the £8,000 estimate, was carried out by college leavers recommended by Mr Cooper.

If you cannot come up with the solutions yourself, the Hunters believe there is much to be gained from bringing in a garden designer. It is just a matter of finding the right one. "Polly, Paul and Jo have become real friends," Mrs Hunter says. "We exchange Christmas cards — and you wouldn't get that from the garden centre, however much you spent."

Paul Cooper, Aspects Garden Design, The Old Forge, Ross Road, Huntley, Glos (0452 308984). Polly Jones, 5 Wickham Road, London SE4 1PF (081-692 1939).

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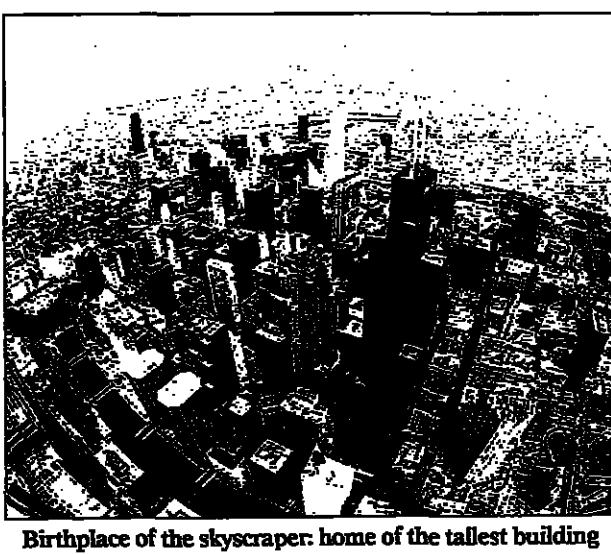
FREE SEAT CLASS UPGRADES

Readers of *The Times* who want to travel to the USA before February 1993 have a unique opportunity to cross the Atlantic in luxury with two free United Airlines seat class upgrades. You can choose to upgrade either from Full Fare Economy to Connoisseur Class, or from Connoisseur Class to First Class, with savings of up to £2,000 at current prices.

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To take advantage of this exclusive offer, you need to collect the 12 special tokens printed in *The Times* — one a day from last Monday to next Saturday (September 26) — and book your transatlantic flight with United Airlines before February 1993. You will find token six on this page. Details of how to claim your two free upgrades will appear in *The Times* on Saturday, September 26.

If you have lost any tokens contact *The Times* Backstage Dept. Tel 071-782 6137.



Birthplace of the skyscraper: home of the tallest building

Up, up and away

CHICAGO is America's second city, after New York. It was the birthplace of the skyscraper, and is the home of the world's tallest building, the Sears Tower, which is 110 storeys high, full of shops and restaurants, and with an observatory on the 103rd floor. A famous elevated railway runs through this city where seven million people live if you include the suburbs.

Yet though it may sound like an urban nightmare, it is also a splendid holiday town, basking on the southern shore of Lake Michigan. The factory chimneys of the past have gone: the lake can be as blue as the Mediterranean, and along the shore there are great parks and superb sandy beaches.

Not much is left of old Chicago, which went up in flames in the Great Fire of 1871. Twenties Chicago, which everybody associates with prohibition and Al Capone, is still there, comparatively quiet now. One of the great twenties hotels is the Drake, where heads of state get rooms on the 10th floor and anyone can eat the fish in the Cape Cod Room. Bus and boat tours of the architectural sights are provided by the Chicago Architecture Foundation through its Architects. A notable area is Oak Park, where the architect Frank Lloyd Wright lived, as well as Ernest Hemingway.

Chicago is a great ethnic mix, with about 80 distinguishable ethnic communities, including Greeks, Poles,

Lithuanians and Serbs, so it is not surprising that there is every kind of restaurant, large and small. The deep-dish pizza was born in Chicago, and still lives there. Chicagoans like eating out — and out-of-doors when they can. Chicago has been called the Windy City, but proprietors of outdoor eating places will tell you that that epithet refers to the politicians.

The Chicago Symphony Orchestra is perhaps the city's greatest cultural treasure: it plays at Orchestra Hall. Blues and jazz music drifts out from the clubs at night.

In the parks, there are numerous museums: the most renowned of them is the Art Institute of Chicago. It has an outstanding collection of French Impressionists, including Monet and Renoir, some fine Picassos, stained glass by Chagall, and curiosities like a room of exquisite or exotic paperweights. Other well-known local activities can be studied at the Chicago Bears football ground in Burnham Park, and at the Billy Graham Centre.

From the lakeside you can take boat trips or go sailing, and visit ships of the US Navy. Chicago is also of course a major starting point for tours of the Great Lakes and the Great Lakes cities. Lakes Michigan, Huron and Superior are the best for touring, with many lovely, picturesque shores. The notable towns are Milwaukee, Duluth, and over the Canadian border Toronto.

Terms and conditions Gateway to the USA

Full conditions of free domestic flight and upgrade redemption/ticketing procedure will be sent to you along with your certificates.

Generally applicable:

1. All instructions for entering the competition and claiming your pair of flight or upgrade certificates form part of the rules. 2. No correspondence will be entered into. 3. Only adults over 18 are eligible to claim/enter. 4. Promoter: Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN. 5. Times Newspapers Ltd can take no responsibility for claims/entries that are illegible or defaced upon receipt and these will be disqualified. 6. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery. Times Newspapers Ltd takes no responsibility for the condition of certificates received via the post or for any issue connected with or arising from the redemption of the flight or upgrade certificates on which correspondence can only be entered into with United Airlines. 6. United Airlines guarantees that all passengers will benefit from the usual and customary rules for handling international and US domestic passengers. However, in the case of scheduled flight delay or malfunction, United Airlines will not provide alternate means of transportation for passengers but will properly accommodate these passengers until such times as the next scheduled United Airlines flight to the requested destination at the requested class is available. 7. Seats limited to space available for this offer. 8. Certificates are not combinable or transferable, and have no cash value. 9. Normal Times Newspapers Ltd promotions rules apply available on request.

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1. Claims must be made only on the official claim form to be published in *The Times* on September 26, 1992, and 12 tokens numbered 1-12 will be required to validate your claim. 2. You will receive two single direct flight upgrade certificates. One certificate can be used per person for one seat upgrade on either outbound or inbound flights. 3. Upgrades expire on 31 January, 1993, and are valid on scheduled United Airlines flights having one flight number between the UK and the US to any United Airlines destination. 4. Your two free upgrade certificates will be despatched to arrive within 14 days from the closing date of 3 October, 1992. 5. Your upgrade(s) must be booked through United Airlines within 24 hours of departure and not before. 6. Upgraded seats will be subject to availability. **The Times Zones Competition Week 1:**

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Complete the application form below for your Gateway to the USA domestic travel certificates; fill in your answers to enter the Times Zones Competition and win one of 30 pairs of transatlantic tickets. Collect the tokens 1-12 — token 6 is printed here — to claim your free upgrade certificates next week.

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WHERE TO WALK

Monumental island passage

With the possible exception of the tiny island of Flotta, whose oil terminal processes 20 per cent of North Sea oil, all of Orkney is a walker's paradise. Despite excellent ferry and air links, it is wise to confine yourself to two or three islands on one visit. Having said that, Hoy and the Old Man should not be missed. The "Jessie Ellen" runs throughout the day between Stromness and Hoy. From Moaness Pier follow the road inland, uphill past the old Post Office, which you'll recognise by its red telephone box. It is worth noting that this backwater

most of the village was in ruins. An influx of those in search of the "good life" has resulted in the restoration of many of the crofters' cottages, throwbacks to the old Viking longhouses.

Where vehicle access ends, look out for a wooden sign saying "Old Man". From here, a narrow path climbs steeply through the heather, past clumps of shoulder-high thistles and banks of snow-white bog cotton. The higher you climb the more spectacular the view of Rackwick Bay, the sea crashing against the towering cliffs beyond. Rackwick had one of the finest white sand beaches in Orkney until, in 1976, a storm blew most of the sand a mile out to sea. It is still there, clearly visible at low tide.



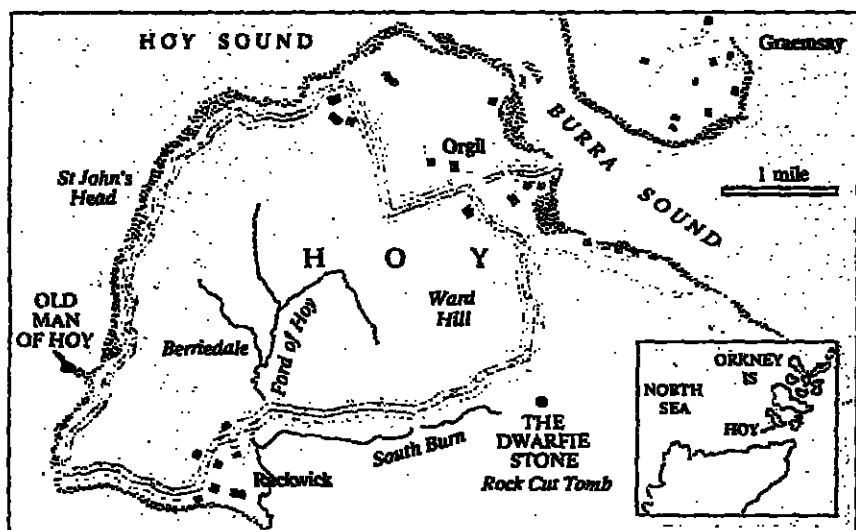
The Old Man of Hoy

After about a mile the path begins a steep descent to a wide stretch of moor and the Old Man appears, head and shoulders above the heather. When you reach the cliff edge it is a sheer drop to the foot of the cliff, so the safest way to view the rock stack, particularly on a windy day, is flat on your stomach. From here follow the coast round to St John's Head, one of the highest vertical rock faces in Britain. The views are magnificent. You won't be alone — there are puffins, gulls, skuas, guillemots and fulmars by the score. Mountain hares, too, are a common sight.

The final landmark is about a mile further on, where a promontory gave protection for an Iron Age fort, built 2,000 years ago. The remains are still visible in the form of a 6-9ft high round. You can pick up the track here back to Moaness Pier.

Allowing for detours to see the Dwarfie Stone and Rackwick Beach, this 18-mile walk will take the best part of a day. Take waterproof clothing — Orkney weather is unpredictable. There are no catering facilities along the route, so a packed lunch is advisable. For the less active, a taxi will take you from Moaness Pier to Rackwick, picking you up later in the day. Hoy taxis are unlike any others — don't be surprised if the school bus turns up.

As you cross the Ford of Hoy look up to your right to see Berriedale, Britain's most northerly natural woodland. Rowans, downy birch, aspen and hazel have grown here for 3,000 years. A little further on, Rackwick comes into view. A few years ago



WHERE TO STAY

Dine well, sleep soundly

● **KIRKWALL:** This is one of the best-preserved medieval towns in Britain and the small Albert Hotel is in the heart of the conservation area. A meal in its Stables restaurant is a must: the young chef has a delicate touch, his queen scallops are the best I've eaten and deep-fried Orkney farmhouse cheese is a pleasing change from camembert. Whisky aficionados will appreciate the list of 36 malts. Double room and breakfast £64.63, single £41.13, à la carte dinner for two about £30 (0856 876000, fax: 0856 875397).

● **ST OLA:** The Foveran Hotel has superb views over Scapa Flow. Bobby and Ivy Corrie are the hosts at this small hotel, four miles west of Kirkwall, whose restaurant

won the Taste of Scotland award. Try Shapinsay Duck, succulent Westray prawns, or a huge crayfish. Window tables are provided with binoculars. Double room £65, single £40 (0856 872389).

● **STROMNESS:** If you want a joint that jumps, the Ferry Inn, overlooking the harbour, is the spot. At night the public bar is packed and booking is essential for the restaurant. A room in the annexe assures a quiet night. Double £21, single £19 (0856 850280).

● There are B&Bs all over the islands. For information contact the Orkney Tourist Board, Broad Street, Kirkwall (0856 872856, fax: 0856 875056).

NEXT SATURDAY

Not all princes and princesses live happily ever after. Richard Hough compares the marriages of Bertie and Alix and Charles and Diana

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Edinburgh on Tuesday morning and ends in Perth on Thursday evening. Limousine back to Edinburgh provided (£1,350 per person). There is also a four-day Northern and Eastern tour, joining at Perth and finishing at Edinburgh (£1,950 per person). Reservations can be made through Abercrombie & Kent Travel, Sloane Square House, Holborn Place, London SW1W 8NS (071-730 9600, fax: 071-730 9376).



BEST OF BRITAIN

ORKNEY

Ros Drinkwater absorbs the potent magic of 5,000 years of myth and legend in these spectacular northern isles — and learns which end of a cow matters most

In Orkney, you can believe the world is round. Beyond the wide sweep of Skall Bay, sea meets sky in a great curving arc that embraces everywhere the ancient trod.

There is a magic in these islands, and it has created 5,000 years of myth and legend. The Ring of Brodgar is a circle of standing stones 340ft in diameter; was it a neolithic lunar observatory, or a family of giants turned to stone by a malevolent force, as legend says? Stand in their shadow as the sun sinks, with the wind whistling across the Loch of Harrah, and the legend is believable. Who slept in the round tomb at Maes Howe, Britain's best example of a chambered cairn? Hogboy, the spirit of the sacred site, is silent.

"Na na, lassie, you're lookin' at the wrang end — wi' cattle a bonny face is nae use at all. Big curvy hips, that's what you look for. The value's all the back end." Practically, not magic, is the farmer's stock in trade. At the Stromness auction a procession of cattle shied and skidded round the ring, while men in tweed suits and flat caps made their bids by no more than a blink, a wink or the tap of a fingernail.

Tourism now earns the area more than agriculture, but farming is still the heart of Orkney, a tradition begun by Stone Age settlers who tended their stock, built their henge monuments and fashioned necklaces from sheep's teeth, 1,000 years before the Egyptians thought of pyramids. In prehistoric times the North-South divide worked in reverse; the treeless Northern Isles offered a greater promise of prosperity than the British mainland with its impenetrable forests.

Despite an astonishing archaeological legacy — there are said to be three sites of historic interest every square mile — the earliest Orcadians remain an enigma. The settlement at Skara Brae tells more than most. In 1850, above the shoreline of Skall Bay, a storm blew away the sand dunes and uncovered the houses and alleyways of a small dry-stone village built 4,500 years ago. In some cases the walls stand to eaves level, and the alleyways still have their original slab roofs; internal fittings are intact, beds, dressers, boxes, all hewn out of stone, giving a clear picture of domestic life, down to the damp-course of blue clay — but yielding no clue to the inhabitants' race, creed or language.

The Picts and the Papae, Celtic clergy, followed Stone-Age man, leaving a second mysterious legacy of settle-

ments, barrows and brochs (circular stone towers). From tomb inscriptions we know the Picts had a written language, but it has proved indecipherable. The written history of Orkney begins with the Viking invasion of AD700, and the six centuries of Norse rule are gloriously chronicled in the Orkneyinga Saga, a 12th-century transcription of Orkney's oral traditions, a powerful blend of historical fact and fanciful tales of trowies (fairy folk), mermaids and seal folk.

This golden age ended abruptly in 1468, when the king of Denmark pawned the islands

to the Southern isles and the largest island, known as the Mainland, which has at its centre the capital and cathedral city of Kirkwall. The spire of St Magnus, a rose-red sandstone architectural gem, dominates the skyline for miles. Here is Durham in miniature; indeed, Durham's masons began it in 1137, on the orders of Viking Earl Rognvald, to honour his martyred uncle Earl Magnus.

The cathedral took three centuries to complete and its style ranges from Romanesque to Transitional to Gothic. In places, yellow sandstone alternates with red, Britain's best example of the use of two colours in pattern. By the high altar, a simple cross scratched on the stone marks the spot where the saint's bones were originally interred. By a 1486 royal charter the cathedral belongs not to the church, but to the citizens of Kirkwall, for all denominations.

From the sublime to the literally homespun: across from the cathedral a sign in a shop window reads: "Handknitters wanted for Fair Isle gloves, fingers only." Fingers only? A great part of Orkney's charm lies in the unexpected. Road signs that caution "Otters Crossing", flagstones on roofs, for lunch a "Stone-Age Ploughman's" of pickled herrings in bare bannocks, large round scones baked with barley meal, the recipe unchanged for 5,000 years. On



Storm gift: neolithic Skara Brae

to Scotland as part of a political marriage settlement. The pledge has never been redeemed, a fact not forgotten here, particularly when the islanders find themselves at odds with Westminster. Life was hard under Scots rule, and the islanders endured two centuries of exploitation, culminating in the tyranny of the Stewart dynasty. But even the Stewarts added to the architectural legacy with the splendid palaces of Birsay and Kirkwall, built by forced labour. To this day the Orkneys lie halfway between their Scandinavian and Scottish heritage, succumbing to neither, choosing to remain apart.

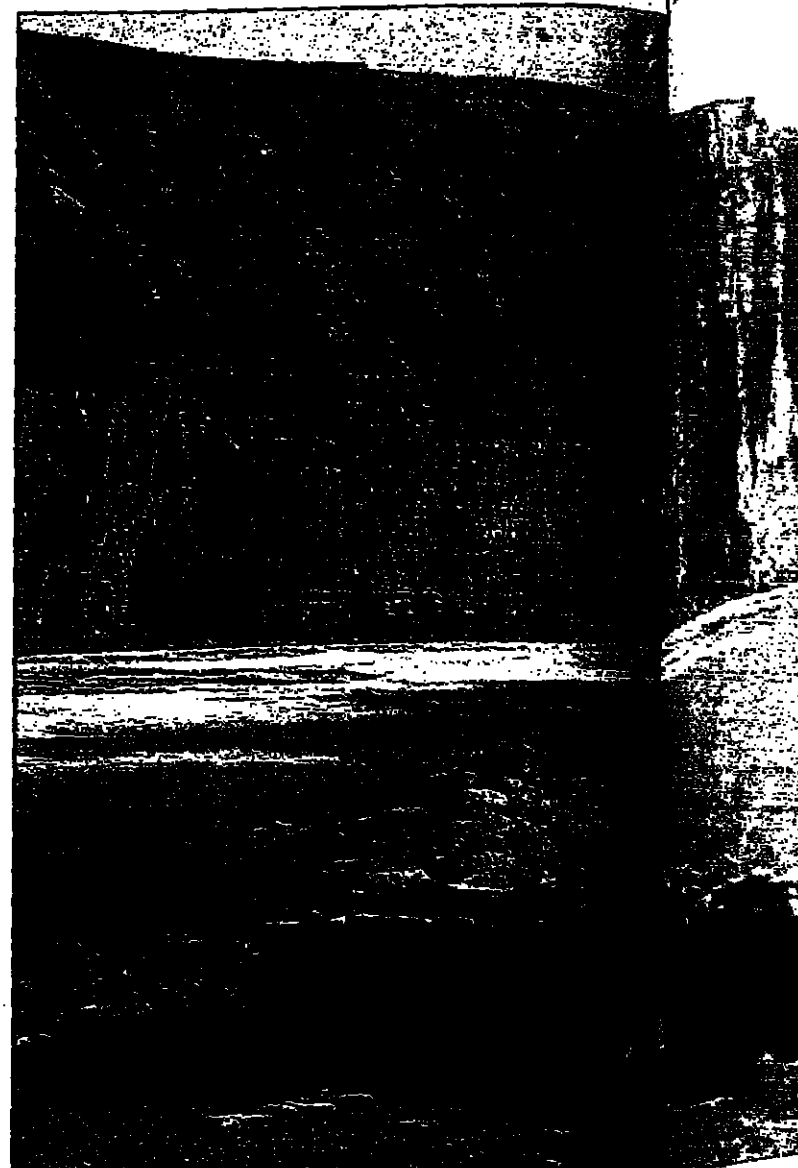
In all there are 70 islands, enclosed in a sea area roughly 50 miles by 30, and separated from Scotland by a mere seven miles of the stormy Pentland Firth. Only 20 are inhabited, a few having a population of one — a summer bird warden. With the exception of Hoy and Rousay, most are low-lying and fertile, their gentle patchwork of lush green pasture running to the edge of spectacular coastal cliffs, interspersed with freshwater lochs and heather moor.

They can be roughly divided into three groups: the Northern

island of North Ronaldsay, seaweed-eating sheep are confined to the shoreline by a dry stone wall that encircles the island, resulting in meat that is fat-free and tastes of game; and on the tiny islet of Lamb Holm, there is the miracle of Camp 60, two Nissen huts, transformed into a beautiful chapel by Italian prisoners in the second world war.

While the capital takes itself seriously, its rival, the fishing port of Stromness, is a lady with a dubious past. In 1841, with a population of less than 3,000, it had four inns, 36 pubs and its own whisky distillery. The latter closed in 1920 when the unthinkable happened and the town voted itself dry. This lamentable state of affairs lasted until 1947.

Stromness consists of a single narrow street that weaves and twists like the footprints of a drunken sailor. Alleyways with extravagant names — Puffer's Close, Kyber Pass — lead off up Brinkie Brae or down to the waterfront houses, with their windows set deep into the thick walls and their cove-stepped gables built to face the sea. Only a mile long, the street changes its name no less than eight times, each change enjoying a



Lonely sea and the sky: looking across Rackwick Bay



Praying for an end to hostilities: Italian POWs construct

landmark of sorts. It begins as Ness Road with the Double Houses, built in the last century by a woman shipping agent who in one year employed 800 whalers; at South End there is Login's Well, which supplied water to the ships of the Hudson Bay Company, the Franklin and Cook expeditions; a little further on, on the site of the old Orkney distillery, lives the island's most famous son, poet and novelist George Mackay Brown.

As if spurred on by his presence the street then bursts into cultural activity with the museum in Alfred Street, three bookshops between Dundas Street and Graham Place, and the Pier Arts Centre in Victoria Street, with its fine collection of 20th-century works, including those of Ben Nicholson and Barbara Hepworth. And then you reach the harbour, all bustle and fishing boats. Today giant cruise liners have taken the place of whalers and the Hudson Bay fleet, but the tradition of hospitality lives on and after dark the pubs and inns echo with music and laughter.

Music is inextricably linked with Orcadian legend. The best tale tells of the fiddler, standing underground by the brow of a midsummer night so that his music might work its spell on the harvest. The fiddler, he is finally released, 22 years later, though he has not aged a whisker. The theme was borrowed for *Rip Van Winkle* by Washington Irving, whose father came from these parts.

With the arrival of progress and the gramophone, Orkney fiddlers hung on the wall, a fact mentioned by George Mackay Brown. "What is an island without music?" he asked. In answer to his question, in 1970, fate arranged a remarkable coincidence in the shape of a chance meeting on the island of Hoy between the poet and a young avant-garde composer, Peter Maxwell Davies, whose first visit to the islands was in 1964. It is a fanciful thought that there might be a parallel

All aboard the extravagant express

Feel like entering a never-never land of luxury and idleness. Royal Scotsman, where the heathered hills slide past as the train

BEST BREAKS

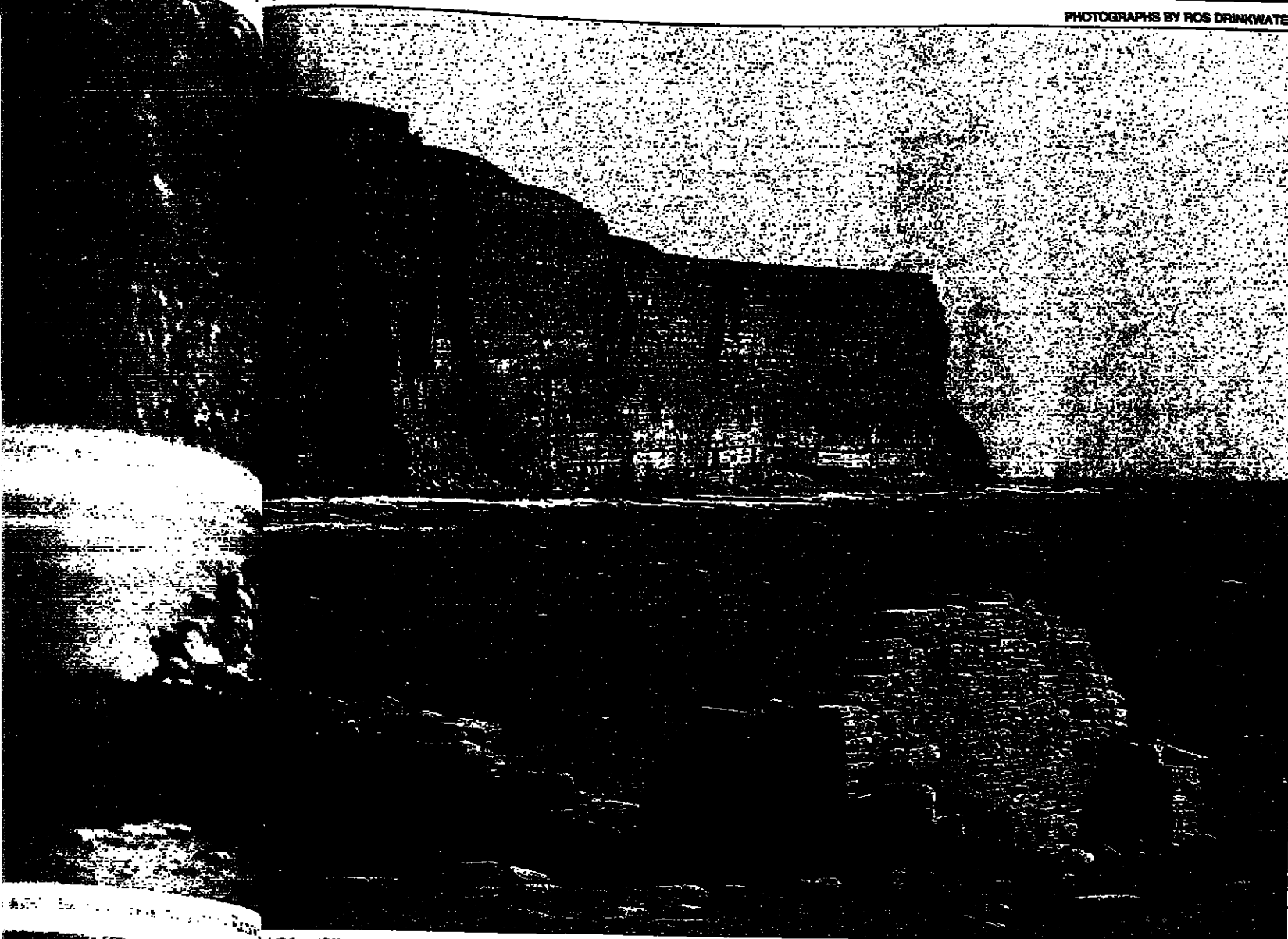
covered hills of the West Highlands slide past. The train is a masterpiece of design. According to the menu, hand-written in brown ink, we are to get fillets of Aberdeen Angus beef with Madeira sauce and a wine from California.

The hand-written menu in brown ink is important. The tasteless brutality of the type-writer has no place here. There is room for 32 passengers (the company prefers to call them "guests"), but we are only about 20, with nearly as many crew. We are looked after by a gang of cheerful young Fionas and Cathies of the wholesome kind found behind the best hotel reception desks. They are discreetly hard-working, but seem to be grinning and laughing all the time, as though the whole thing is a tremendous lark, which it is.

There is also Flora from Skye, our guide. For this is not just a train journey. This is a short course in Scottish history, with location visits via a coach which meets us at some of the stations.

That is how we found ourselves taking a glass of sherry in the real clan chieftain, Sir Donald Cameron of Lochiel, his sitting-room of his mansion, Achmarry. He was patched trousers and woolly he stood in front of a two-bar electric heater and us the sad tale of his ancestor who rallied unwilling Bonnie Prince Charlie against everything. "But with 600 acres left you'd think he'd get some decent central heating," whispered one of our party, finding the train for the second time in

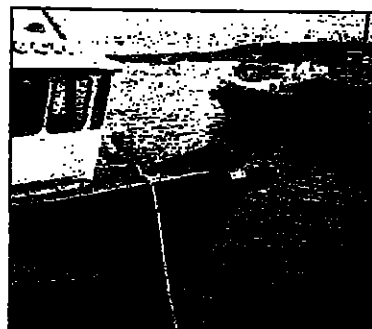
A couple of days later, in a glass of Madeira, we met the Macleans at their house on Loch Fyne. Maclean walked on through the garden while the gallery Fitzroy ("one of the millionaires James Bond", according to the guide) had what I suspect were able tales about the family. "Why do they do it?" one of our party, finding the train for the second time in



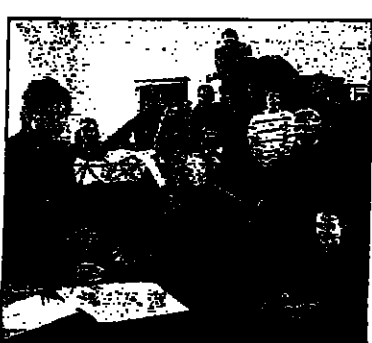
side of Hoy. Only 20 of the islands are inhabited, some of them with a population of one — the summer bird warden



chapel in a Nissen hut at Lambholm



Safe anchor in Stromness harbour



Sir Peter Maxwell Davies in Hoy



Holy way: St Magnus cathedral, Kirkwall

the tale of the fiddler, for in Sir Peter Maxwell Davies has really gone home. After meeting with G.M.B. he had to spend six months of his life here, and since then has made all his music on Hoy. In the inaugural first St Magnus Arts Festival, now the first of the Orcadian calendar, and every summer the Hoy Kirk plays host to his music school, an intensive week course ending with a concert by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra of the works composed. Sir Peter, as he now mimes up his experience on the very simply: "The magic place got to my music."

though the concert at the Kirk is booked out every year, the island has an even more attraction in the Old Man of Hoy, a rock stack as tall as Paul's cathedral. It first drew national consciousness in 1967 when television viewers treated to a day-long live broadcast of its first ascent. In the terms it is classed as a "very severe", due to a series of punishing overhangs.

Ever since it has proved irresistible to Britain's top climbers. Pounded by mountainous seas for centuries, however, the Old Man is now in peril of collapsing and plunging into the sea. Following an outcry in the national press, a team is due to arrive on Hoy to measure the extent of erosion and determine how, if at all, the Old Man can be saved. Local feeling does not necessarily concur with the press. One resident viewed the matter with characteristic Orcadian levity. "Aye, it's a sin, the Old Man will be missed. But nature is a hard woman to reason with, and ye ken, when he does go, won't he make a grand splash?"

What to read: The Orkney Guide Book by Charles Tait (published by Charles Tait Photographic, Kelton, St. Olaf, Kirkwall) is an excellent practical guide to Orkney. George Mackay Brown's Portrait of Orkney gives a poet's insight to island life, and his An Orkney Tapestry, which concentrates on the literature and folklore, is still the definitive book on the islands. HMSO publishes a scholarly guide to the 54 key historic monuments.

HOW TO GET THERE

- By air: British Airways Headrow to Kirkwall via Aberdeen, regular economy return £404, excursion fare with restrictions £217. BA and Loganair fly daily to Kirkwall (except Sundays) from Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Inverness.
- By sea: P&O Ferries operate a daily roll-on/roll-off car ferry from

Scarabaster, near Thurso, including Sundays in summer, and weekly from Aberdeen to Stromness. A summer passenger ferry also operates from John O'Groats to Burwick.

By rail: ScotRail stations are located at Thurso and Wick. You may have to change trains at Inverness.

WHAT TO DO

- Every water sport is catered for on Orkney, from sailing and windsurfing to diving and fishing. Due to the Norse Udal Laws, which Orkney still retains, the six main lochs, Harrah, Stenness, Boardhouse, Hundland, Swannay and Kirkbister, which are well stocked with wild brown trout, are

freely accessible to anglers. The best sea angling can be had in and around the Pentland Firth and up the West side of Hoy. Sub-aqua thrives in Scapa Flow where you can dive on the sunken first world war German fleet, scuttled by Admiral Ludwig von Reuter in 1919.

LUXURY ON THE MOVE

- InterCity Luxury Land Cruises: Tours of scenic Scottish railway lines, such as the West Highland Line from Fort William to Mallaig, or the route between Inverness and Kyle of Lachalsh, run fortnightly, leaving London on Friday evening and returning Sunday night. The price of £180 is fully inclusive of first class travel in traditional Pullman-style coaches, accommodation, meals and refreshments. Everyone is guaranteed their own sleeping cabin in air-conditioned, sound-proofed sleeping cars, with en-suite washing facilities. In summer Land Cruises go to other destinations such as the West Country (0543 254076).
- Days out on the Orient-Express: The British section of the Venice Simplon-Orient-Express departs from London's Victoria station on its luxurious day trips to Hever Castle or Leeds Castle in Kent, or Bristol, Bath and Salisbury. Original carriages from the 1920s and 30s which have been faithfully restored are featured, and champagne sets the tone for the day. Prices start at £135 (071-928 6000). For those from out-

side London wishing to stay in London overnight, the Grosvenor Thistle Hotel (071-834 9494) is the most conveniently situated for Victoria. An overnight stay on Friday, Saturday or Sunday costs £96 for a twin or double room including full English breakfast, service and VAT.

- Settle-Carlisle Railway Baffin Break: The Tufon Arms Hotel (07683 51593) in Appleby-in-Westmorland runs Railway Weekends in conjunction with David Alison of Tracks North (0539 84666). The approximate price of £125 per person includes two nights' accommodation, full English breakfast, dinner, minibar and train transport for conducted tour of the Settle-Carlisle line.
- Hebridean Island Cruises: The luxury alternative to Scotland-by-train is a four or five-night cruise around Scotland's highlands and islands, recommencing next March. The Arran Suite will set you back around £1,000 for four nights, but middle-range cabins start at £550 (drinks and wine extra) (0756 701380).

SOPHIE CHAMIER



Sweet-sounding children: Roseanne Townsend with (from left) Jessica, James, Miranda, Sebastian and Harriet

Music while you grow

This morning, while their contemporaries are glued to children's television, nine-year-old twins Jessica and Harriet Townsend will be playing the cello and violin in a junior string orchestra at the Muscalle music club in Harpenden, Hertfordshire. Their sister, three-year-old Miranda, who belongs to the toddler musical appreciation group, will be singing and clapping a line of crotchets and quavers, while their elder brothers Sebastian, 12, and James, ten, practise the euphonium and saxophone.

The Townsends are not alone. Weekend music clubs are springing up all over Britain, offering a wide variety of music for a range of age groups. Harpenden's Muscalle was founded two years ago by a mother of four, Gillian Johnston, because "there weren't enough local facilities to encourage very young children to sing or play instruments. Toddlers can sing before they can talk, and they're more than ready to develop their facilities."

Tiny tots such as Miranda start off with the Colour String programme (a Finnish concept), which teaches the 250 under-sevens who attend the Muscalle to understand music theory through games and colours. Instead of the traditional five-line staff, beginners are given one line with the words "do", "ray" and "me" in different colours. Rhythm games teach two and three-year-olds to sing the basic crotchets and beat in time. Four-year-olds learn the difference between high and low notes by touching their feet, legs, arms and heads as the notes rise. Toddlers also use percussion instruments to reinforce the rhythm.

Jane Bidder on the new weekend activities for budding musicians

Roseanne Townsend (mother of Miranda, Harriet, Jessica, Sebastian and James) abandoned the piano herself at the age of 11. But her children's enthusiasm is so infectious that she now plans to start again as an adult beginner. Meanwhile, she sees the £40 termly fee (per child) as "an investment. If the children can play an instrument, they've got it for life. It's like another language."

Further south in Surrey, the Saturday String Club (three-year-olds and upwards) is tuning up at the Hindhead School of Music near Guildford. There, for £5 a session, children are grouped according to age and instrument — about 50 three-year-olds play the violin following the Suzuki method (learning to play after listening to the music).

The most important advantage for children is that they play in groups and listen to what they are doing in relation to everyone else," says Mike Hughes, Chamberlain, whose mother, Ann, founded the school 17 years ago. "We also encourage children to conduct. Parents often sign up for adult classes too — the saxophone is particularly popular."

Certainly the James household in Frensham, Surrey, reverberates with music all week long. Four-year-old Emma and six-year-old Elizabeth both play the violin at the Hindhead Saturday String Club, and their 35-year-old

mother Morag has just started the instrument during the school's evening chamber music classes. "The girls practise after school and I try to do so during the day," says Mrs James, who was astonished that her daughters could start so young, and says their playing "isn't bad considering their ages".

Elizabeth says she loves going to music school on Saturdays. "We play lots of games: my favourite is when someone goes out of the room and the teacher hides a violin bow. When the child comes back to find it, we all play loudly when he's near it and softly if he's looking in the wrong place."

Not all music clubs are private — many local education authorities have their own Saturday morning gatherings. In Buckinghamshire, the Aylesbury Music Centre has 700 members ranging from six to 21 years, paying a termly fee of £15.75. Small beginners often start with the recorder, violin or cello, while more experienced children use the mornings to play as a group. Others prefer to sing with the junior choir.

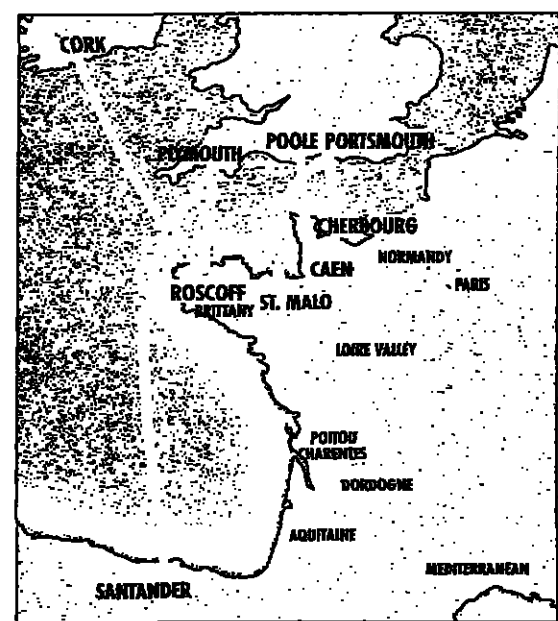
Hugh Molloy, the head of the Music Centre, which was founded 26 years ago, says music is often seen as a middle-class pursuit. "But we get children from families who've never explored this area and it's very exciting to watch mum, dad and grandparents coming along to watch Johnny play the trumpet. That way, you get everyone involved."

In a unique project to lift musical creativity in our schools, starting in January 40,000 primary schoolchildren and 16 British orchestras will unite to rehearse and eventually perform a new work by Sir Peter Maxwell Davies (see left). The Turn of the Tide

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house boasting affectionate sages from members of the 1-family on the piano. The tide of the train knows no takers. The fact that our ar-heavy group was shepherded to the local gift shop, by our host made himself to autograph copies of his is, also helped to explain it it was all about.

they are not wide-eyed novices. Marcella from uni Beach did Afghanistan, 'bodia and the Lebanon are "they all blew up". But can't bear a spell on a good a, she says. You can relax not have to worry about ting off to airports or dealing with customs officials, at about the Orient-Express? "It's in the same league," says accountant from Manchester. "We found ourselves queuing for the loo in the corridor in dressing gowns."

Exciting! The very thought t makes our train manager ale. In the Royal Scotsman all have our own loos. And don't have sleeping compartments, we have staterooms, with room attached. The train sn't even move at night. We

are moored in little wayside halts in order that our sleep should not be disturbed by unseemly motion.

But I sense that some of my high-powered companions are not as easy-going as I am. Being locked into a mobile time warp displaced from reality makes some of them uneasy, particularly if they have left business on the boil. There is a rush for the Financial Times in the mornings. I am normally a silent breakfaster, but over fresh kippers straight from Loch Fyne I find myself cornered into discussing the American election and the world economy.

To me it all seemed pretty perfect. Apart from anything else there is the astonishing scenery. The colours are wonderful, several shades of heather offset by the bracken turning yellow and the scarlet rowan berries. People beside the track laugh and wave at our stately carriages in Royal Purple livery. At Perth I had to return to reality. The train carried on north without me. The Lady from Lima waved her handkerchief. That's the trouble with trains — they leave you standing on the platform.

PEARSON PHILLIPS

For long-distance weekends, see Saturday Review

Nicole Swengley talks to the earl's daughter who is making the most of the crafty things her nanny taught her

• The result is a stunning collection of lush quilts, colourfully checkered

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Hearsey's pieces are built for a particular location. Derry and Susan Treanor commissioned an oak and steel table with a glass top, and a steel fireback and fire-basket from Mr Hearsey for their converted London flat. Since the living-room is overlooked by a minstrel's gallery, it was important that the table looked interesting when seen from


Twist in the stem: glass-topped table

N.S.

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Leaves that set autumn aflame

Francesca Greenoak visits aboretto to discover the secrets of late season colour

After weeks of late summer rain and gloom I am unusually eager to chart the earliest flames of autumn. My garden is still a dripping green, apart from the crimson-edged currant foliage, but the sumach trees across the lane are streaked with amber, the *Robinia "Prisia"* has (thank goodness) exchanged its sickly yellow-green for rich, bright yellow, and the crab apples are hung with red and yellow fruits.

The French reckon autumn to be in by Toussaints (All Saints' day, November 2), but there are early harbingers that flag the season well before this.

As we encounter the first frosts of the year, the rugosa rosehips are already large and shining orange-red, and the rowan trees, rilled by the birds for their scarlet fruits, are letting fall foliage which has turned to a delicate shade of apricot-beige.

The smoke trees *Cotinus* are terrific shrubs for good-sized gardens. I prefer *C. obovatus*, the American smoke, and the green-leaved *C. coggygria* to the purple-foliaged cultivars. The young pinkish-brown leaves turn to green-blue, and in September go into their repertoire of orange, flame and purples. *C. obovatus*, reckoned one of the best trees for autumn colour, grows in most soils and will accept pruning.

A glimpse of another nation's approach to gardening is always interesting. I was captivated by the unusual trees and shrubs at the Belgian arboretum at Kalmthout, to the north of Antwerp, owned by Antwerp province. Established by two energetic and unconventional tree enthusiasts, Jelena and Robert de Belder, Kalmthout is beautifully designed, incorporating superb collections of maples, witch hazels and ornamental cherries.

The garden's robinias are already brilliant in yellow and gold, and the special collection of maple *Acer palmatum* cultivars is one of the earliest and most glamorous in early autumn, turning through a range of oranges and crimson.

Prunus sargentii is one of the few cherries not to suffer from depredation by bullfinches, according to the new edition of the *Hillier Manual of Trees and Shrubs*. Allen Coombes, a main contributor and

Gardens to visit

□ Dorset: Langmoor Manor, near Charmouth, has a natural landscape of woodland and lakes, a Victorian vegetable garden, scented courtyard, museum and animals.

Charmouth: take the A35 W of Bridport, second exit from the Charmouth by-pass, signed to Lyme Regis, and the garden is 200yd on left. Tomorrow, noon-6pm. £1.80, child 30p.

□ Chwyd: Dolbelidr, a four-acre garden near Trefant, has herbaceous borders, unusual plants and lovely views of Vale of Chwyd. Trefnant S from St Asaph on A525, towards Denbigh, turn left by Thatched Cottage restaurant and the garden is half a mile on the right. Tomorrow, 2-6pm. £1, child 30p.

the curator of the Hillier Arboretum at Romsey, which is run by Hampshire county council, provides visitors with information on plants of current interest. Not to be missed this month is the brilliant gold of the large liquidambar tree, which is one of the arboretum's glories. Several maple species are colouring early, notably red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and sugar maple (*A. saccharum*) and an unusual kind known as *A. henryi*, a smaller tree, brilliant red in autumn.

The witch hazel, named Jelena, bred at Kalmthout has become a favourite shrub all over Europe, for its orange winter flowers. The head gardener, Harry van Trier, is keeping a close eye on the new cultivars. Even more spectacular in autumn, the foliage is at first margined with yellow which suffuses throughout, then turns to scarlet. At Romsey, however, Mr Coombes prefers Hiltigbury for witch hazel colours "brilliant reds, purple and orange".

● Kalmthout Arboretum, 25km N of Antwerp (on Kalmthout B2920), Belgium: open daily until Nov 15, 10am-5pm. The Hillier Arboretum, Jermyns Lane, Ampfield, Romsey, Hants: open Mar-Nov. Mon-Fri 10.30am-5pm (weekends until 6pm); Nov-Feb, Sundays only, 10.30am-dusk.



Pillars of fire: scarlet-leaved trees dominate the Ten Acres garden at the Hillier arboretum in Hampshire

BEST BUYS

PLANT daffodil bulbs now. Select large, plump, firm, mould-free bulbs; avoid those with shoots or small offsets. Smaller, early kinds of daffodil such as February Gold (usually flowers in March), Jack Snipe and Peeping Tom go well in turf or beds. Larger trumpet or large-cupped kinds such as the yellow Charter, Gigantic Star or the double Golden Ducat look more at home in beds. Not all daffodils are yellow; there are delightful, scented narcissus-types such as poeticus, peculiar whites and pink-trumpeted varieties.



Harvest: main-crop carrots

WEEKEND TIPS

- Rake lawns thoroughly, taking out dead grass and moss.
- Take blackcurrant cuttings, choosing 8-10in/20-25cm shoots. Cut off soft tips and place in a trench with only the top pair of buds showing.
- Bring indoors any tender pot plants, such as scented geraniums.
- Begin to lift and divide old and crowded herbaceous plants; replant only the younger, more vigorous outer parts.
- Lift main-crop carrots to reduce carrot-fly damage.

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

CAROLINE CHARLES

Fashion designer



Where would you go? Como, Italy - the home of lovely fabrics. Every season there is a trade fair called *Ideal Como*. I have to go for work and always want to stay for fun.

How would you get there? In a six-seater private plane to Milan. There is something extraordinarily glamorous about flying in a private plane: there are little sofas and armchairs to sit in, and a delicious picnic with smoked salmon and champagne. At Milan there would be a driver waiting to take me to Como in a new Jaguar XJ220.

Where would you stay? I usually stay in Milan and drive to the trade fair. It would be such a treat to stay in a balcony suite at the Villa d'Este, a wonderful hotel with lovely gardens on the edge of Lake Como.

Who would be your perfect companion? My husband, Malcolm, who loves everything Italian and speaks the language. Also, our children, Kate, who is 26, and Alex, 22, with their loves.

What essential piece of clothing would you take? A slim, black jersey skirt that is 34in long, three white crêpe blouses and one black dandy jacket - all Caroline Charles, of course. I always wear black and add colour with scarves that I drape round my face or waist.

Which medicines? Disprin.

What would you have to eat? Pasta with truffles and tiramisu, a wonderful pudding made with chocolate-topped coffee custard.

What would you have to drink? San Pellegrino, an Italian fizzy water; orvieto, a local white wine; fresh orange juice and Veuve Clicquot.

Which books would you read? I would re-read Byron, by Peter Quennell, a biography of Lord Byron who spent much of his life in Italy, and Thomas Mann's *Death in Venice*.

What music would you listen to? Alex, who is a musician, would bring his guitar and rehearse his new songs, and we'd listen to our opera favourites - Mozart, Verdi and Richard Strauss - sung by Maria Callas.

What film would you watch? *L'avventura* and *The Leopard*, two great Italian films.

Would you play any sport? Two sets of tennis in the evening.

What luxury would you take? My luxury is having three days off to spend with my family.

What piece of art would you like to have there? Beautiful textiles: 17th-century brocades and damasks, 18th-century silks, and drapes by Fortuny. I'd have them hanging from poles on the walls and draping over sofas. I'd like to touch them, wear them.

Who would be your least welcome guest? Anyone asking: "Is the collection ready yet?"

Which newspapers or journals would you read? *The Times* on Saturday and *Italian Vogue*.

What would you leave behind? The cutting-back of my garden for winter to somebody else.

What three things would you most like to do? Go to the opera at La Scala in Milan, walk in the lower hills and mountains surrounding the Villa d'Este, and go boating on Lake Como.

To whom would you send a postcard? My mum.

What souvenir would you bring home? One of the old damasks to drape about the house.

What would you like to find when you got home? A fax saying: "Return immediately. Caroline Charles Milan store ready for opening party."

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

SHOPAROUND

FRENCH

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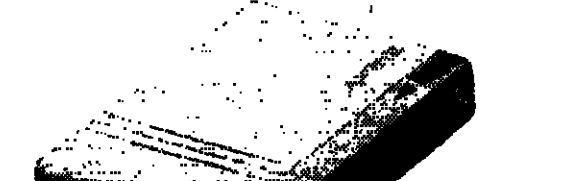
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NO STAMP NEEDED.

In an even more desperate housing market, Rachel Kelly suggests stripping out the wallpaper and chintz for a tempting, no-frills 1990s look

How to sell your house

Number 20 Upper Phillimore Gardens, in Kensington, west London, might be thought of as the perfect house. The white-stucco, late Victorian house has six bedrooms, a drawing-room, dining-room, morning-room, library, and study. The patterned wallpaper and carpets are in perfect condition; so are the swagged curtains, polished sycamore cupboards in the kitchen, marble-clad bathroom, and marbled verdigris columns decorating the dining-room. All very Colefax (as in Fowler). Even the ashtrays and the soap, it seems, match the décor.

Yet the house had trouble selling. Bought in the late 1980s for £1.8 million, its contents were worth another £250,000, and it was put on the market earlier this year for £2 million. As the months slipped by, the price slipped down. It was finally sold for just over £1 million.

Its history typifies not just the house price collapse endemic to central London (Savills estate agent's index of prime London property shows house price falls in the capital of 22 per cent between their peak in 1989 and June of this year), but also the shift in what is perceived to be desirable by buyers. All-singing, all-dancing, all-decorated houses, known as "turnkey" houses in the trade, are not. No 20 was seen not as decorated, but decorated to within an inch of its life. To the buyer's eye, it was horribly jaded and overdone, a 1980s house.

"It's certainly my feeling that buyers are now wary of what they see as over-decorated houses," says William Gething, whose company Property Vision acts for buyers and is a barometer of their desires. "I would stress that it is only a point of view, and there will be examples of heavily decorated houses that have sold well. It is just my perception of a trend."

Decorators agree. Joanna Wood of Joanna Trading in Chelsea has created many an English country-house look. She would in the past have swagged, ruched, stippled, frilled, patterned, chintzed, painted, swirled and ruched again, to her clients' delight. Even her clients could tell distemper from emulsion. With some more cushions for good measure, English antiques and heavily scented flowers, the English

cluttered look was complete. Now Ms Wood notes its demise. "People want something different now," she says of her work decorating show flats and grand London houses. Welcome to the 1990s.

The country house look has been toned down. Everything is a great deal cleaner and simpler. There's not a frill in sight, hardly a flower, or a chintz. A room with more than four patterns is confusing. This is the restrained 1990s.

Candida Lycett Green, a contributing editor of *Vogue*, says: "When the flouncy, frilly, chintzy style had reached boiling point by the mid-1980s, my reaction was to revolt against it and go back to stark simplicity: plain, natural colours and oak floorboards, a cleansing operation after all the clutter. It isn't just a style thing, but part of a movement which is revolting against the complications of modern life."

It's not that people have stopped spending money, Ms Wood points out. "If anything, people are more discerning now. They are not going to say 'Isn't that lovely?' to great swathes of Laura Ashley. They are more informed and aware of the clichés. The absolute criteria now are quality and value for money."

Instead of admiring a sofa's glistening chintz, Ms Wood's typical client now might sit on it and make sure it is well-sprung. Nothing synthetic will wash in the *fin de siècle* interior. "Materials are very green," Ms Wood says. "Only the purest silk, linens, cottons, wools. Natural and well-constructed fabrics in simple colours and patterns, like a simple stripe." Designs are "back to basics," she says, with furniture which is properly made and works well. Colours tend to be browns and beiges, known in decorating circles as "earth colours". Enriquetta, the Bath decorating company which runs 12 franchises, notes the shift from the grapey colours of the 1980s, dominated by mauves, pinks and reds, to the colours of ancient Egypt, terracottas and sky-blues.

Such simplicity has extended into the garden. Knight Frank & Rutley says that remarkable gardens are handicapping the sale of houses. "Most people are looking for something which is easy to maintain," says Richard Gayner from Knight Frank's Guildford office.



Understated: "It isn't just a style thing, but part of a movement revolting against the complications of modern life," says Candida Lycett Green, pictured at home in Wiltshire

Mr Gayner recalls one house with a garden designed by Gertrude Jekyll. "Everybody looking at the property gazed in admiration at the garden, and in despair. Normally a garden by a top designer like Jekyll is a big attraction, but this particular garden required too much daily work for most prospective owners. However, no one wanted to be the vandal who simplified it."

Ms Wood is designing many more arboreta and fewer herbaceous borders in recognition of the mood. "Exteriors tend to move much more slowly than interiors," she says. "It takes longer to grow than redecorate, but the trend is definitely changing. Anything which needs tremendous tender loving care is out." Simplicity permeates the Lycett Greens' garden. "We planted apple orchards which need no maintenance and put geese in them instead of

moving machines. It's the pastoral idyll," Mrs Lycett Green says.

The ideal-sized garden, according to Rupert Sweeting from Knight Frank, is an acre of formal garden with five or six acres of land attached. "The rest of the land should comprise paddock, orchard, or open parkland," he says.

The arrival of 1990s simplicity is most apparent at the top of the market. As the mass retail market interprets haute couture, so the décor of prime residences sets the tone for lesser properties. Yolande Barnes, head of research at Savills, traced the 1980s' rushed and swagged look from its origins in the prime London market until it filtered down to the Wimpeys and Barrat show houses. "It was adapted and adopted by the builders," she says — often unsuccessfully.

Whereas the height and grandeur of a No 20 Upper Phillimore Gardens could take such elabora-

tion, it can often swamp a smaller room.

Today's restraint at the top of the market may in part stem from the changing Zeitgeist of the 1990s, in part from the changing conditions of the property market. People expect to stay in their houses for longer, seeing their homes not as investments to be traded.

"They want to know that decorations will last, that things like tiling are adequate," Ms Wood says. "They can no longer guarantee that property will go up in value: there is no margin of error. And people will be staying in their homes longer. They are much fussier."

Ms Barnes also identifies the influence of American buyers in the prime London market. It was they who were most seduced by the English country-house look, she says. And, of all foreign buyers, it is the Americans who have withdrawn most from the London

market. In 1988, 5 per cent of overseas buyers were American; now only 2 per cent are. Europeans accounted for 5 per cent in 1988, 8 per cent now.

"Americans tended to want the English antique-and-chintz look," Ms Barnes says. "Our research shows that Europeans prefer a far simpler look." While the 1980s could be typified as an American-dominated decade, when greed was good and Wall Street ruled, the 1990s is the decade of Europe, Ms Barnes says. The 1990s house is essentially European: understated, interchangeable across countries.

Typical of such a house is No 26 Cornwall Gardens, SW7. The maisonette occupies three floors of a suco-fronted Victorian house. Its drawing-room has white walls, beige sofas and curtains, and striped wooden floors. The flat was sold through Property Vision earlier this year, predictably to a

European buyer. "The flat had all its period plasterwork and fireplaces but was painted very simply in white throughout, with beautiful joinery and floors," Mr Gething says. "It appealed enormously."

Candida and Rupert Lycett Green's six-bedroom farmhouse in Wiltshire, on the edge of the village of Huish in Pewsey Vale, which is on the market with Savills for £1 million, also exemplifies the 1990s mood for simplicity and practicality in the country. "It has become embarrassing to most people to display wealth," says Mrs Lycett Green.

Howard Elston from Cheshirefield, which sold No 20 Phillimore Gardens, confirms the view. "Nothing is easier to sell than a perfectly plain, inoffensive house at the moment. People used to be happy to buy a lifestyle," he says. Now, it seems, they want to create their own.

Cure for the surgery



Mind-readers: Delphine Saba and David Lightfoot, who created "a feeling of indolence and opulence"

Delphine Saba lives in a magnificent 18th-century Grade II listed terrace house in Devonshire Place, near Oxford Circus in central London. When she and her husband, Geoffrey, the concert pianist, bought it 11 years ago it had been used as doctors' surgeries.

The house was dull, old-fashioned and in bad condition. Now it has been restored, with three floors of beautifully proportioned intercommunicating reception areas and eight bedrooms.

"I loved the house because it had perfect symmetry," says Mrs Saba, who studied fine arts in Melbourne, and then architecture.

Mrs Saba loves the good things in life, and this includes her surroundings. "A feeling of indolence and opulence is what I like. My rooms have to have three qualities of light; it is to do with living in the tropics," she says.

Her first task on moving in was to put on "lots of paint". She and her husband did their fair share: she even painted the outside of the house, climbing up scaffolding.

Three years ago she met David Lightfoot, a former joiner turned designer, whose attention to detail demands Mrs Saba's exacting demands. "They begged me to take the two splendid stone fireplaces; nobody wanted them," she says. The old panelled mahogany doors in the basement and upstairs came from a castle.

had their arguments. Mr Lightfoot says, with a hint of admiration: "She is an impossible client. She keeps changing her mind. She rang one day when I was in the middle of drawing up the work-bench in the kitchen and said, 'I've had a brilliant idea, why don't we have a radiator there instead?'" Mrs Saba adds: "He fined me for that when I got the drawings he charged double."

Mr Lightfoot has made the most of the house's architecting and all the sash windows. He fashioned bookshelves between the windows in the first-floor reception room. In the basement, he made the kitchen cupboards, door frames and tall, folding mahogany glass-panelled doors which allow light to flow between the living areas.

Mrs Saba rescued most of the old pieces she has added to the house from an architectural salvage company. "They begged me to take the two splendid stone fireplaces; nobody wanted them," she says. The old panelled mahogany doors in the basement and upstairs came from a castle.

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Handsome and available

AROUND Edinburgh there has long been a pathetic necklace of handsome but decaying country houses, including Mavisbank and Melville Castle (featured last month). On a list that runs well into two figures, Avondale is more immediately rescuable than any. A new purchaser could move in at once.

Here is a fine example of Strawberry Hill Gothic with spiky pinnacles and battlements, but all on a cottage scale. Looking at the long, low facade, you would not guess it contains 11,000sq ft.

This is rolling windswept countryside with few trees, close to the Firth of Forth and Grangemouth, and its industries loom a little too close. But the house is set amid its own broad acres, with the entrance opening almost directly off the M9 Edinburgh-Forth motor-



Grandly Gothic: wild and windswept, its guide price is £100,000

way, happily both out of sight and hearing. The drive passes straight through a toy fort farm and stable yard complete with tall, pointed archways, and the house comes into view almost immediately afterwards looking south on a stretch of former parkland to a folly set on a gentle hill.

Originally known as Clarkstone, the house contains a 16th-century core and was Gothicised

in the 18th century for the Duke of Hamilton. Early in the 19th century it came into the hands of William Logan, and from 1922 belonged to the Salvans family until it was commandeered in the second world war as a Polish hospital.

A few years ago, the estate of 200 acres was bought from the local farmer living in the house by Peel Estates. It obtained permis-

sion for a 15-year programme of sand and gravel extraction. At its closest the excavation will come within 200 yards of the house, but most of the site is thankfully out of view of the house.

Peel has now sold to Goadley Limited. The original agreement with the planners was simply to regrade the land, which would be lowered between two and eight metres, and return it to grazing.

Subsequently, Falkirk District Council's search for new tipping sites has prompted the owners to start exploring the possibility of infill — a hole in the ground is valuable. John Holt, who joined Goadley from Peel, explains: "The house is in effect for sale with about 24 acres, but we will not market it actively until the tipping proposals have been sorted out."

Goadley has repaired the roof to ensure the house is wind-proof and watertight, and there is also a caretaker. The farmer who lived here for many years has continued in residence. The guide price is £100,000.

MARCUS BINNEY

For further information contact J.M. Holt at Goadley (0925 418479).

Châteaux, lakes and a park outside



Buyer's France

INDRE AND CHER

Indre and Cher, two peaceful departments in the centre of France, are well off the tourist track. Bourges, once the capital of the old region of Berry, now the principal city of Cher, with its medieval half-timbered houses and magnificent cathedral, is little known to most foreigners and to many French.

The area around Bourges has a number of attractive châteaux and villages, including Sancerre, a fairy-tale village perched on top of a hill overlooking the river Loire, famous for the dry, white wine that bears its name, and the château of Nohant, near the small town of La Châtre, once home of the French novelist George Sand.

Further south and west in the Indre, the Brenne regional park has more than a thousand lakes, with good fishing and a range of water sports including wind-surfing and water-skiing. To the north is the Solange, a densely forested

area full of game; the great Loire valley châteaux are a short drive away; Burgundy and the Auvergne can be reached in about two hours.

South of the Loire, the region has mild winters and hot, although sometimes humid, summers.

Two hours along the A10 motorway from Paris, about four and a half hours from the Channel ports of Caen (Ouistreham) or Le Havre, the area has a good range of property from cottages and farm buildings to manor houses and châteaux, and prices are reasonably low. You can still find old stone barns and *fermettes* (farm cottages) for conversion, priced from £15,000 to £20,000 if total restoration is needed, about £25,000 to £30,000 if structurally sound. Already restored, with a couple of acres of agricultural land, they cost from £35,000 to £60,000.

Village houses needing renovation, typically with two or three bedrooms and a garden, are priced from £20,000. Manor houses with some land cost from £150,000, at least twice that if fully modernised, and châteaux start at £250,000 for anything that is habitable.

The renovated 19th-century gentleman's house (nobleman's house) pictured right is set in two-and-a-half acres of parkland alongside an 18-hole golf course, a few miles from the bustling market town of Châteauroux, in the Indre. It is for

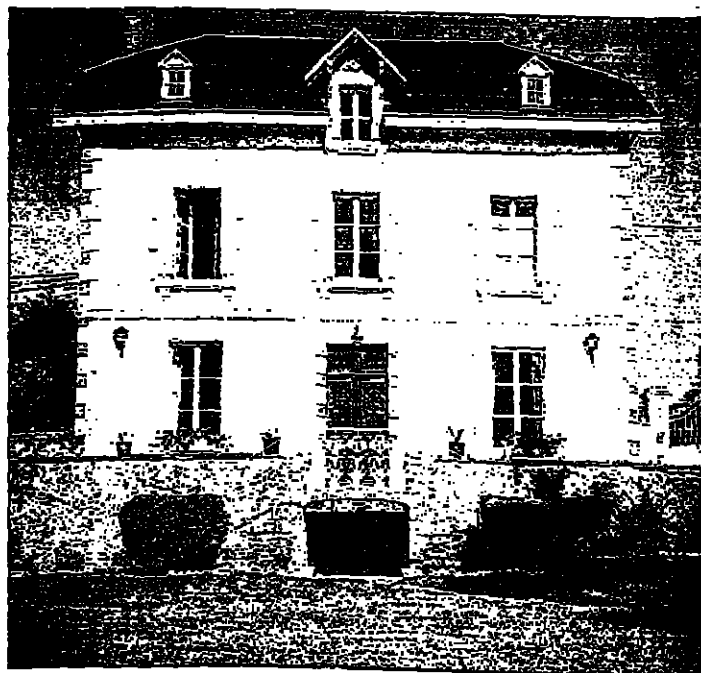
sale at £150,000, including agency fees.

The property has been fully restored and modernised, with central heating. It has two large reception rooms, fitted kitchen and WC on the ground floor; three bedrooms and two bathrooms upstairs; and a games room and office

above. A separate, self-contained one-bedroom caretaker's cottage is included in the price.

The agent is Gerard Saunier, 231 rue de Strasbourg, 36000 Châteauroux (010 33 54 38 52 96).

CHERYL TAYLOR



Restored nobleman's house: set in parkland, it costs £150,000

Big day for small man of the match

Lynne Greenwood
finds out why it was
worth a three-year
wait to be a Leeds
football mascot

Eight-year-old Steven Fletcher hovered outside the home dressing room, impatient for his heroes to be ready. When the door finally opened he was ushered in front of the team and walked tall down the tunnel with captain Gary McAllister's protective arm around him.

Steven had waited just over three years for this moment, to be the mascot for his favourite football team, Leeds United. His mother and father admitted they were more nervous than he was.

Freckle-faced Steven, in new white football kit, the replica of his team's 1992 strip, and brand new football boots waiting to be muddied, ran on to Elland Road in front of 30,000 fans — and waved to his grandfather in the Family Stand.

Every week boys and an increasing number of girls between the ages of five and 13 relish the thrill of acting as mascot for their favourite football teams.

Waiting lists for the privilege now stretch seasons ahead at most of the Premier League clubs. Parents are even advised to put their child's name down before their first birthday, much as some do for the country's top schools.

At Arsenal, where mascots are chosen each week from the 10,000 members of the Young Gunners Club, it is not unusual for children to wait several seasons before being chosen. At Leeds, the ones who have been waiting the longest are put into a draw. Some, of course, never get the chance.

Some First and Second Division clubs attempt to solve the waiting-list problem by allowing up to five mascots at each home game.

Paul Fletcher sent his son Steven's name to Leeds United just before his fifth birthday, in the hope it would make a special present. Three years later, the family got a letter at home in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, saying Steven had been chosen for the Leeds versus Liverpool match, one of the best games of the season.

"I telephoned the club a few



Proud moment: "It was a bit scary out there," said Steven Fletcher after he accompanied Leeds United captain Gary McAllister on to the field

weeks after I first wrote to them about Steven and they explained the waiting list was more than two seasons long," says Mr Fletcher, who has season tickets in the club's Family Stand. "I don't think Steven ever gave up hope, but it's been a long wait."

The letter arrived on Steven's sports day at Ravenfield Primary School, near Rotherham, where, fittingly, he won the day's penalty shoot-out competition. His mother Margaret, there to support him and his younger brother Robert, aged five, gave him the news at school. "He was very excited, but he's not a boastful sort of boy and he only told his two closest friends," she says.

For the lucky mascot the day's events vary depending on the club, but nearly always involves the youngster being given a replica kit, and sometimes a signed football or autographed poster.

When Steven arrived at Leeds for his 2pm appointment, as a special treat he was allowed into the boardroom to inspect the club's League Championship Trophy, won last season, and the Charity

Shield, brought to Elland Road after the team defeated Liverpool at Wembley in August.

He changed from his own Leeds United tracksuit into the new shirt, shorts and socks provided by the club's sponsors, and new boots bought by his father for the occasion.

Steven was then taken by steward Alan Beever, whose Saturday job is to take care of the mascots, down below the main stand to see the underground secrets of the boot room, gym, treatment room, dressing rooms and match officials' room.

"They all have a wonderful day," Mr Beever says. "But they all react differently. Some are cheeky, bubbling over with excitement, others are too nervous to say a word. I don't think it really hits them until the match is over and they get back home."

Steven's eyes widened as players, his idols since he was old enough to kick a football, wandered by less than half an hour before the kick-off. He waited eagerly in the

tunnel, new autograph book at the ready, for the players from both teams to come off the pitch after their pre-match warm up. Their hasty scribbles filled his pages. "I'll take longer to decipher who's who," said Mrs Fletcher, her video camera poised for Steven's march on to the pitch.

When his team made its entrance to the booming strains of the Rocky theme, 4ft 3in, four-stone Steven led them out. His calmness deserted him and he admitted he was "so nervous" as he ran on to the field. Afterwards he said: "It was a bit scary out there, with all those people watching."

Then it was over and he was back in the family's complimentary seats in the main stand, provided by the club. "I hope they don't lose," he said to his mother, "because then they'll wish they had had the mascot who was chosen for the Tottenham match." Leeds had defeated Tottenham 5-0 earlier that week. They drew 2-2 with Liverpool.

Regular mascots were introduced at football clubs in the late 1970s and early 80s, and are now a

regular part of Saturday soccer. Many clubs charge for the facility, although all provide gifts in exchange. A Football League spokesman says that even in the 1940s and 50s clubs had mascots for certain games, although they were not always children. "But since the 80s most have a youngster for each match," he says. "It's entirely up to individual clubs whether they charge."

Leeds, which charges £100. Neither Arsenal, which makes a random draw from the Junior Gunners membership, nor Manchester United, which now restricts its mascots to just six specially chosen children each season, makes a charge.

The Fletcher family has no doubts that the day represented good value for money. Already they have added their younger son Robert's name to the waiting list at Leeds. But their daughter, Rachel, aged three, whose football shirt still covers her feet, will have to be patient for a few years longer.

● To join mascot waiting lists, look in your next match programme for details, or write direct to the club.

Children's events

LONDON

Barbican Children's Cinema Club: Under 12s may join for an annual membership of £3 which entitles them to visit every week and bring two guests. Today's film is *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*. Tomorrow, *Barbican*. London EC2 (071-638 8891). Today, 2.30pm. Member £2.50, additional guests £3.

Living with Lasers: Fascinating exhibition looking at the widespread use of lasers today, ends soon. Well worth a visit. Science Museum, Exhibition Road, London SW7 (071-938 8000). Until September 30, Mon-Sat 10.30am-6pm Sun 11am-6pm. £3.75, child £1.90.

Horseman Sunday: Vicar on horseback blesses all the horses and riders. Horse show follows. St John's Church, Hyde Park Crescent, London W2. Tomorrow, assembly 11.30am, service noon. Horse show at Kensington Paddock 1.30pm onwards.

NATIONWIDE

Belvedere: Music from the time of Charles I performed on authentic instruments, children invited to dress up, join in the dancing. Belvedere Castle, Belvedere, east of Chesham, Bucks (0494 623349). Today, tomorrow from 2pm, £2.50, child £1.

Borrowdale shepherds' meet and show: Well loved traditional show plus main ring displays and demonstrations, children's pets. Yew Tree Farm, Rothwaite, Keswick, Cumbria. Tomorrow, 8am until late afternoon. Admission by programme, 50p.

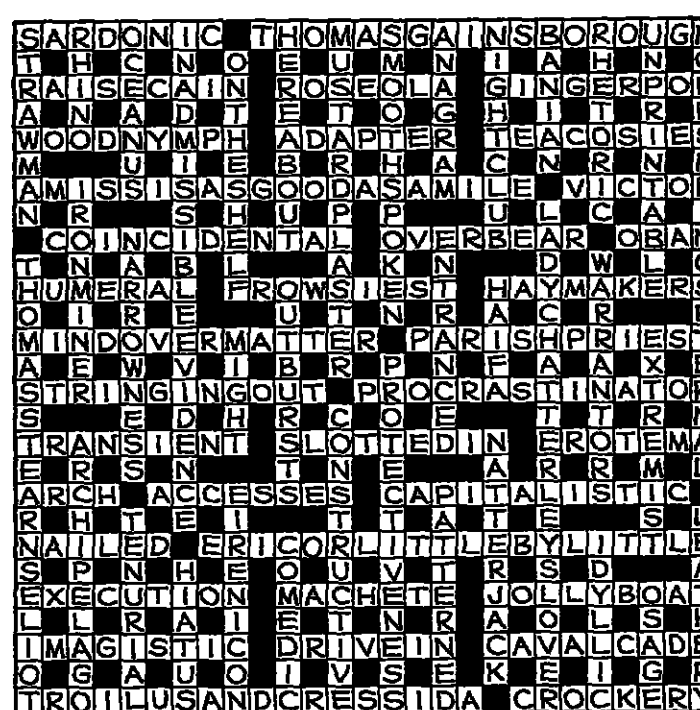
Bishop's Stortford outing: Display of 100 decorated boats at Hallingbury Mill, open for the day, plus traditional river crafts and refreshments. Bishop's Stortford, Herts (0279 723568). Tomorrow, 2-5pm. Free admission to site.

Egmont Crab Fair: Family fun at this popular annual event with greasy pole climbing, street racing and many other local pastimes. Egmont, Cumbria. Today from 8am, sports from 2pm. Small admission charge.

Paddock Wood environmental weekend: Lots of children's activities with the Kent Trust for Nature Conservation, including trails and treasure hunt, and pond dipping. Also craft demonstrations, sheepdog trial. Whitbread Hop Farm, Belting, Paddock Wood, Kent (0622 872068). Today, tomorrow 10am-5pm. £4.25, child £3.

JUDY FROSHAUG

Jumbo winners



Here is the solution to the bank holiday jumbo crossword published on August 29. The five winners, who each receive £50, are: Mr V.M. Perthen of Stoke Bishop, Bristol; Mr Francis Jellat of London SW19; Mrs Mary Burgess of Saffron Walden, Essex; P.Thomson of Rugby, Warwickshire; and Michael Hutchison of Albury, Guildford.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANNOUNCEMENTS & PERSONAL NOTICES

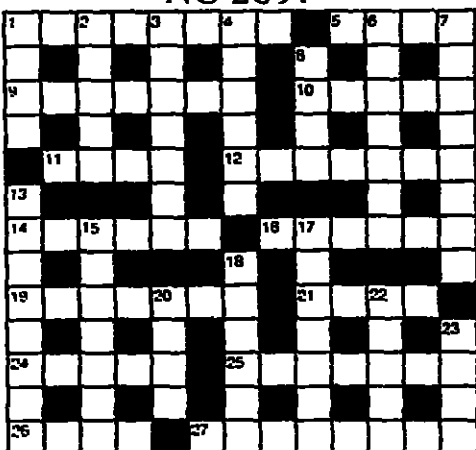
Tel: 071 481 4000
Fax: 071 481 9313

BOOKING DEADLINES:
ANNOUNCEMENTS: 5.00pm day prior
PERSONAL: 5.30pm 2 days prior.

Please have a major credit card ready when placing your notice as prepayment is required.

We accept
ACCESS, AMEX, DINERS and VISA.

NO 2897



- ACROSS: 1 Expedition (5,3)
2 This way (4)
3 Cut off (7)
4 Cook's overall (5)
5 Long-house people (4)
6 Quarter sessions (7)
7 Guarantee (6)
8 Love castle (6)
9 Samson's betrayer (7)
10 Position (4)
11 Screenshot (5)
12 Rumpo-hide whip (7)
13 Route (4)
14 Submitted (5)
- DOWN: 1 Leave (4)
2 Creamy white (5)
3 Horse slaughterer (7)
4 Polar frozen cover (6)
5 Skyline (7)
6 New York State prison (4,4)
7 Stock (4)
8 Disadvantage (8)
9 In funds (7)
10 Use sparingly (7)
11 Undeclared (6)
12 Similar (4)
13 Rorie river (5)
14 Slide (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2596:
ACROSS: 1 Corridor 7 Flitch 8 Luftwaffe 9 Wad 10 Ease 11 Driven 13 Tiddly 14 Sumner 19 Casual 20 Grim 21 Lay 23 Ring Cycle 24 Olive 25 Travel net

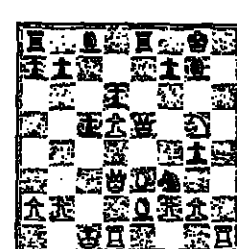
DOWN: 1 Gilbert 2 Refused 3 Town 4 On fire 5 Binew 6 Chide 7 Favour 12 Clause 13 Sarcasm 16 Tempest 17 Banner 18 Floor 19 Cymic 22 Scow

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keane, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Tozer — Orion, British Championship 1992. White is threatened with mate on b2, but managed to checkmate Black first. Can you see how?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 6NN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Sateford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in The Times on the following Saturday.



Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Bof+. The winners are: M.O. Harcourt, Teddington; E. Rosanstein, SW15; G. Lee, Darra Hall.

PERSONAL

PUBLIC NOTICES

CHARITY COMMISSION: The Charity Commission for England and Wales has received a report from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland regarding the activities of the Northern Ireland Charities Commission. A copy of the report is available to the public on request. For further information, please contact the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland, 100, Queen's Road, Belfast, BT1 3JL. Tel: 01832 761111.

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF MEETING OF CREDITORS: FARMER & CO. LTD. (In Liquidation) is hereby notified that a meeting of the creditors of the company will be held at 11.00 am on the 22nd day of September 1992 at the offices of the Liquidator, Messrs. J. & J. Roberts, 100, Queen's Road, Belfast, BT1 3JL. The business to be transacted at the meeting is the appointment of a Liquidator for the company.

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STUDENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

288-ADAMS Schneider P.C. with 30/60. (071) 481 4000.

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MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

ROSEBUDS Grand Piano, Model 200 (071) 481 4000.

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BBC1

- 6.45 Open University: Projecting Visions (6725730) 7.10 Maths: Modelling Pollution (3315198) 7.35 Race for a Gene (7975575) 8.25 The Physics of White Dwarf Stars (6993020)
- 8.50 Playdays at the Dot Stop (6375943)
- 9.10 News and weather (6459952)
- 9.15 Start Your Own Religion: Dr Colin Morris talks about starting his own religion with an audience at Westminster College, Oxford (s) (6275204). Northern Ireland: Dail Sa Dula
- 9.30 This is the Day: Tim Harbert talks to Tony Phelan at his home in Leeds about the joys of being single (77827)
- 10.00 Sign Extra: QED — The Battle of the Bottle Snatchers. Young engineers from Europe, America and Japan design and build robotic rubbish collectors (s) (19488)
- 10.30 Film: Dream One (1984). Children's fantasy adventure starring Seth Kibel and Jason Connery. Directed by Amanda Seligman (55710339) 12.05 The Flintstones (s) (8061914)
- 12.30 Country File: John Craven introduces the latest rural issues (9066914) 12.55 Weather (s) (9496598)
- 1.00 News (66800372) 1.05 The High Chaparral. Classic western series (s) (8890198) 1.55 Cartoon (59567961)
- 2.00 EastEnders. Omnibus edition (s). (CeeFax) (s) (10117)
- 3.00 Eldorado (s). (CeeFax) (s) (5440)
- 3.30 Film: The Barefoot Contessa (1954). A sardonic look at Hollywood starring Humphrey Bogart, Ava Gardner and, in an Oscar-winning role, Edmond O'Brien. Directed by Joseph L. Mankiewicz (88691643). Northern Ireland: All-Ireland Gaelic Football Final
- 5.35 Bitterback presented by Julian Pettifer. Richard Jobson examines viewers' complaints about Top of the Pops. (CeeFax) (293952)
- 6.15 Lifeline. Mike Smith appeals on behalf of the Centre for Accessible Environments (s) (227488)
- 6.25 News with Moira Stuart. Bristol Cathedral where parishioners representing 210 churches gather for a 450th birthday celebration. (CeeFax) (s) (588827)
- 7.15 Keeping up Appearances. Patricia Routledge stars as the suburban snob in Roy Clarke's one-joke comedy series. Haydn has the chance to do a spot of rural social climbing when she and Richard take over a country cottage. (CeeFax) (s) (247865)
- 7.45 The House of Eliott. Polished period drama charting the fortunes of two sisters and their fashion house. (CeeFax) (s) (374846)
- 8.40 Birds of a Feather. Pauline Quirke and Linda Robson star as the prison widows in Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran's earthy comedy series. (CeeFax) (s) (659114)
- 9.10 News with Michael Burk. (CeeFax) Weather (494339)



Pitch battle: Denis Lawson exploits Eve Barker (9.25pm)

- 9.25 Screen One: Born Kicking
- CHOICE: A script by Barry Hines of Kes is built on the premise that an 18-year-old schoolboy shows such talent as a footballer that he is signed by a league club and becomes a star in a team of men. Roxanne's ability to score winning goals with a few minutes left enhances the fantasy but Hines tries to ensure that *Born Kicking* is more than a female version of *Roy of the Rovers*. Roxanne not only has her ups and downs on the field but finds herself exploited by the club chairman to promote his business ventures. In a fit of self-doubt she begins to wonder whether blazing a trail for her sex is worth it. This serious tone does not last long, however, and having made his point Hines is happy to let Roxanne (engagingly played by a television newcomer, Eve Barker) have the last kick. Denis Lawson also scores as the manipulating chairman. (CeeFax) (s) (270952)
- 10.50 Everyman: After Charity. Eight Oxford volunteers travel to north west India to see how the money they raised in the UK is being spent. (CeeFax) (920117). Northern Ireland: The Championship Special 11.40-12.20 Everyman
- 11.30 Film: The Club (1980) starring Jack Thompson and Graham Kennedy. Acerbic Australian drama about a former football star who is dismayed to find that big business is taking over the club where he coaches (554469). Directed by Bruce Beresford 1.05am Weather (8419860)

BBC2

- 6.35 Open University: Maths Methods: Fourier Analysis (6732020) 7.00 Modern Art: Duchamp (3322488) 7.25 Maths: Energy Through the Window (3342233) 7.50 Culture and Belief in Europe 1450-1600 (5163730) 8.15 Polar Oceans (6902778) 8.40 Instruments under Wraps (6738827) 9.05 What you Never Knew about Sex (616204) 9.30 The Melbury Road Set (9735198) 9.55 Quantum Leap into the Atom (4658662) 10.20 Wrapping up the Themes (5176469) 11.10 Surviving Exams (1450552) 11.35 Wheels of Progress (2263730)
- 12.00 The Sky at Night with Patrick Moore (s) (5755556)
- 12.20 Sunday Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up includes: 12.35 and 5.30 Athletics: The IAAF/Diet Coke world half marathon championship. Great North Run from Newcastle and further coverage of the IAAF world junior championships from Seoul; 3.15 and 4.30 Motorcycling: The Motor Cycle News British superbike; 3.45 Three-day Eventing: dressage, cross-country and show jumping from the Bingley Horse Trials (65904594)
- 6.00 The Blue Skopje Tram. A film about the heyday of Britain's first electric tramway (s). (CeeFax) (933)
- 6.30 One Man and His Dog. Phil Drabble introduces the second seminars of the single and brace championships. The commentator is Ray Ollerenshaw (s) (211643)
- 7.15 The Living Planet: The Baking Deserts. David Attenborough looks at how plants and animals adapt to their surroundings when he explores the earth's deserts. (s) (CeeFax) (766778)
- 8.10 The Choice: A six-part series on the international fashion industry starts by looking at the big Paris shows, using the culture of the catwalk to examine the politics and the economics and to introduce the key players. The fashion business is essentially about persuading people that each season they must switch to new colours, hemlines, cuts, fits and fabrics. The show is central to this, an expensive jamboree (costing up to \$200,000 for 40 minutes) designed to tempt buyers and gain maximum coverage in the media. Treading much the same path as a Clive James special of a few years ago, though without his jokes, the film reports on the squabbling for the best seats, the art student gatecrashers, what it takes to be the pampered hicks and hackettes who pretend to hate every minute of it (283551)
- 9.00 Did You See...? Jeremy Paxman is joined by writer Caryl Phillips, HM Inspector of Prisons Judge Stephen Timmins and actress Stockard Channing who give their verdict on *Omnibus*, *Between the Lines* and *Dame Edna's Neighbourhood Watch* (s) (862933)
- 9.40 Time Passing: Wedding Day. The second of six short films about our experience of time featuring a composite wedding from six marriages that took place in Bristol Register Office on a day in May (351285)
- 9.50 Newsnight Special: France Decides. As the result of the French referendum on the Maastricht treaty is announced, Jeremy Paxman in London and Peter Snow in Paris ask how its implications will affect the millions of people living in the European Community (915407)
- 10.20 Film: The Last Boys (1984). Ingenious horror story, with a leavening of humour, starring Kiefer Sutherland and Corey Feldman. A mother and her two teenage sons move to a small Californian town where their teenage years are really a battery of vampires. Directed by Joel Schumacher. (CeeFax) (s) (520117)
- 11.55 The Night Stalker starring Darren McGavin as the investigative journalist. Tonight his attention turns to an exclusive dating agency where the smart single people are turned into elderly corpses (716136). Ends at 12.50am



Backstage at the fashion shows: a Chanel model (8.10pm)

- 2.00pm The New Three Stripes (9469) 7.30 In Living Colour (9575) 8.00 The Comedy Company (483491) 8.30 The Sunday Comics (5857) 10.00-10.10 Moonlighting (58114)
- SKY SPORTS
- Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites 6.30am-7.00am The West (42010) 7.00 European League Round-Up (4446) 8.00 World Team Pool (45575) 9.00 Goals on Goal (15190) 9.30 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 10.00 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 10.30 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 11.00 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 11.30 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 12.00 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 12.30 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 1.00 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 1.30 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 2.00 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 2.30 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 3.00 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 3.30 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 4.00 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 4.30 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 5.00 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 5.30 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 6.00 Football: 1992 FA Premier League (84777) 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BBC1

- 7.25 News and weather (5422744)
 7.30 *Hallo Spencer* (5194600) 7.50 *Babar* (5278616) 8.15 *New Lassie* (5) (5194600) 8.35 *The Jetsons* (5) (8766600)
 9.00 *Parallels* 9. Last in the series of the children's magazine programme (5) (7074722)
 10.55 *Film: Rogues of Sherwood Forest* (1950) starring John Derek. The son of Robin Hood decides to reform the infamous band of outlaws. Directed by Gordon Douglas (8922780)
 12.10 *Cartoons*. With Barney Bear (5786426) 12.27 *Weather* (7021451)
 12.30 *Grandstand* introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 12.35 *Football: Bob Wilson and Gary Lineker* reflect on the best of the action from the first leg games of the European club competitions; 1.05 *News*; 1.10 and 1.35 *Paralympics* a look at the performances from the Barcelona games; 1.55, 2.25 and 2.55 *Racing* from Newbury and the Curragh; the Highclere Nursery Handicap (1.30); the Courage Stakes (2.00); Rokeby Farms Mill Reef Stakes (2.30) Coral Autumn Cup Handicap (3.00) from Newbury and the GFA National Stakes from the Curragh (3.15); 2.05 and 2.35 *Basketball*; highlights of the final of the Castleg International from Cardiff; 3.50 *Ice Hockey*; highlights of the second match of the Molson Challenge from Wembley Arena between the Montreal Canadiens and the Chicago Blackhawks; 3.50 *Football* half-times; 4.00 *Athletics*; the junior world championships from Seoul (34519971)
 5.05 *News and weather* (3644567) 5.15 *Regional News* (2937884). Wales (5.50). Wales on Saturday
 5.20 *Def's Army*. Jimmy Perry and David Croft's comedy series about the antics of a bumbling Home Guard (5). (Ceefta) (3381364)
 5.50 *Big Break*. Jim Davidson and John Virgo are joined by Cliff Thorburn, Ken Doherty and Terry Griffiths. (Ceefta) (5) (946123)
 6.20 *Bobby D'Amore* — Public Enemy Number 1. The comedian's guests are Frank Bruno, Judi Spliers, Nicholas Parsons and Kevin Lloyd. (Ceefta) (5) (728451)
 7.00 *Bruce Forsyth's Generation Game*. Bruce Forsyth and Rosemarie Ford with another series of the game show. (Ceefta) (5) (7616)
 8.00 *Casualty*. Gritty medical drama set in the accident and emergency department of a city hospital. A father claims his three-year-old son has swallowed sleeping pills, but it emerges that the child has swallowed cannabis. (Ceefta) (5) (679567)
 8.50 *News with Michael Buerk*. (Ceefta) Sport and weather (262529)



Jack the lad: Nicholson's horny little devil (9.10pm)

- 9.10 *Film: The Witches of Eastwick* (1987)
 ● CHOICE: The witches, in this entertaining if filleted version of John Updike's novel, are played by three of Hollywood's most watchable actresses, Susan Sarandon, Michelle Pfeiffer and Cher. Add Jack Nicholson, as the horny little devil who comes to brighten up their dull and frustrated lives in a New England town, and the film can hardly go wrong. And nor does it, though some of the subtlety of Updike has been lost in the interests of making a bankable film. Nicholson, in particular, goes deliciously over the top as he seduces each of the women in turn and leaves them all with something to remember him by. The *Witches of Eastwick* draws on familiar Hollywood genres, notably the sex comedy and the supernatural fantasy, but brings them up fresh. The director is George Miller of the *Mad Max* films. (Ceefta) (5) (51246109)
 11.05 *Match of the Day*. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights of two of this afternoon's fixtures in the Premier League (5) (5359890)
 12.05 *Film: Harvest of Hate* (1978) starring Denis Quisenberry and Kris McQuade. Moderate Australian thriller about a young couple who uncover a terrorist training camp in the bush. Directed by Michael Thornhill (9063759) 1.20am *Weather* (8463681)

BBC2

- 6.40 *Open University*. Includes 7.55 *Imaging the Eye* (5275529) 8.20 *Women's Studies*. Taking the Credit. (6005819) 8.45 *Maths: Finding One's Bearings* (8760426) 9.10 *Santa Maria del Miracolo*. Venice (6184513) 9.55 *The Structure of Liquids* (9767797) 10.00 *The Tempest*. Act IV (7651426) 10.25 *Children First* (Ceefta) (9265155) 10.50 *Instruments Under Wraps* (8024709) 11.15 *The Export of Pollution* (1555451) 11.40 *The Successful Seven* (2239971) 12.05 *Fundamentals of Computing* (8092884) 12.30 *Open Space*. Grass Roots (509788) 12.55 *Culture and Belief* in Europe 1450-1600 (6305136) 1.20 *The Case of Kerala* (7888857) 1.45 *King Cotton's Palace* (4562813) 2.10 *The Subject of Bouff* Bourguignon (8651960) 2.35 *Walk Softly on the Earth* (3997136) 3.00 *Look Stranger*. The Campbells Came by Rail. A journey to the 15th-century home of a former Army colonel (5) (3658548)
 3.25 *Film: M. M. M. by Moonlight* (1956, b/w) starring Dirk Bogarde. The true story of the wartime kidnapping of a German general from the occupied island of Crete. Directed by Michael Powell (69182838)
 5.05 *Film: The Battle of the River Plate* (1956). John Gregson and Anthony Quayle star in the story of the sea battle between the British cruisers and the German battleship *Grass*. Directed by Michael Powell (11949887)
 7.00 *News and sport with Chris Lowe*. (Weather) (716345)
 7.15 *Late Again*. Highlights from *The Late Show* (5) (495906)



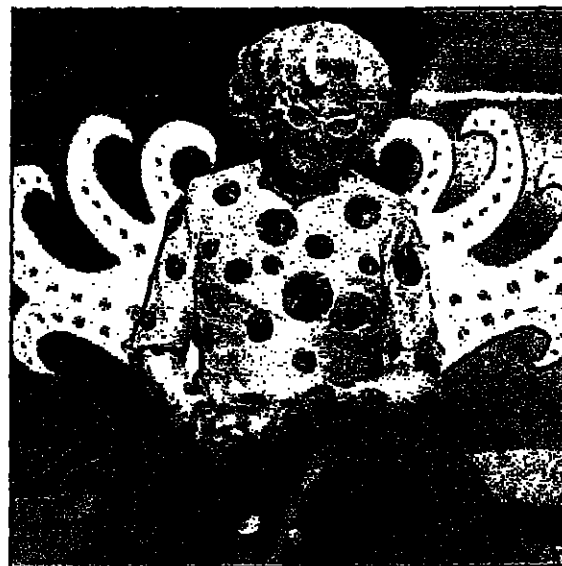
The case for birth control: Dr June Goodfield (8.00pm)

- 8.00 *Cosmic Joke: The Other Side of Paradise*
 ● CHOICE: A two-part series by the scientist and writer Dr June Goodfield takes its title from John Steinbeck, who said that the human preoccupation with its own survival was a joke of cosmic proportions. But overpopulation, the subject of Dr Goodfield's films, is no laughing matter. She presents us with the telling statistic that for every person who dies in the world today there are born and looks at what two poor countries are doing about it. The answer in each case is a campaign to encourage family planning. In Indonesia, mainly Islamic, the slogan that "two children is enough" is squared with the teachings of the Koran. In Mexico the stern morality of the Roman Catholic Church is being bypassed as the government drives home the family planning message in soap operas, discos and pop songs (571111) 8.15 *News*
 8.50 *Dancemakers*. Wim Vandekerckhove. The Belgian choreographer and his company with the award-winning *Roseland* (5) (190155)
 9.40 *Time Passing*
 ● CHOICE: A series of six short films, being shown on consecutive evenings, take up the theme of time. One Year is a record of the first twelve months in the life of Victoria Wright, the child of a couple in Avon. The film includes the usual baby shots as Victoria starts to crawl, talk, feed herself and play with other children, accompanied by mum's commentary. But the director, Charles Garrad, also tries something more ambitious, which is to put up a frontal shot of the naked child against a black background and show how it changes size and shape as the weeks go by. The result is undoubtedly novel, though the strain of trying to cram a year into ten minutes does seem to show (826737)
 9.50 *The Brain Drain*. Jimmy Mulville hosts a humorous alternative to Question Time (555277)
 10.20 *Sinead O'Connor: Coffee and Cigarettes*. The singer filmed during the recording of her new album *Am I Not Your Girl* (855258)
 11.05 *Film: High Plains Drifter* (1972). Stylish, brooding revenge western, directed by and starring Clint Eastwood. (Ceefta) (426180). Ends at 12.50am

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ITV

- 6.00 *TV-am* (5596155)
 9.25 *What's Up Doc?* with Yvette Fielding, Pat Sharp and Andy Crane. Neil Buchanan from *Art Attack* pops in (27322703)
 11.30 *Movies*. *Movies*. Steve Priestley introduces the latest films and videos for all ages. Featuring *A League of Their Own* starring Tom Hanks and Madonna (6258)
 12.00 *The ITV Chart Show*. In the Video Vault Belinda Carlisle sings "Heaven is a Place on Earth" (61093)
 1.00 *News and weather* (5683508) 1.05 *LWT News* (66936567)
 1.10 *The Scaurs*. Animation (5515529)
 1.25 *1992 Biggin Hill International Air Fair*. Bill Smith and Trish Bertram report from Biggin Hill which is celebrating 75 years of the RAF being stationed there (4362890)
 2.25 *Starting From Scratch*. American comedy series about a small-town vet (8669816)
 2.55 *Matlock* starring Andy Griffith. When a psychiatrist is accused of murdering his patient's husband, Matlock defends him (8431884)
 3.50 *WCVW Wrestling from America* (3717180)
 4.40 *News and weather* (5170889) 5.00 *LWT News* (2012529)
 5.05 *Cartoon Time* (3639535)
 5.15 *Dinosaurs*. Puppet fun with the prehistoric family (5) (876529)
 5.45 *Catchphrase*. Roy Walker introduces the hi-tech quiz show. (Orade) (8828906)
 6.15 *Barrymore*. Michael Barrymore introduces some more of his discoveries (5) (367884)
 6.55 *Film: Crocodile Dundee II* (1988). Inevitable, and inevitably inferior sequel to the hit Australian comedy, starring Paul Hogan. Mick Dundee has now settled in New York. However, when his girlfriend's life is in danger, he decides to meet the villains back on his home territory. Directed by John Cornell. (Orade) (5) (93715971)



The antidote to game shows: Dame Edna Everage (8.50pm)

- 8.50 *Dame Edna's Neighbourhood Watch*. The housewife and superstar hopes to do for game shows what she has already done for talk shows. The audience is all female. (Orade) (5) (229613)
 9.20 *Boxing from the Scottish Exhibition Centre in Glasgow*. Scotland's Pat Clinton defends his WBO flyweight title against Danny Porter from England, and Chris Eubank defends his WBO super-middleweight title against American Tony Thornton. Commentary by Reg Gutteridge and Jim Watt (512525)
 10.05 *News with Ann Leuchars*. (Weather) (76426) 10.20 *LWT Weather*
 10.25 *Film: Red Heat* (1988). Lively, violent adventure starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as a Soviet policeman who teams up with a Chicago cop (James Belushi) to capture a drug dealer. Directed by Walter Hill. (Orade) (5) (559242)
 12.20am *The Big E*. Music programme for and about young Europeans (5) (8637827)
 1.30 *New Music*. Interviews with some of the latest names on the pop scene (23285)
 2.40 *Indy Car Racing 1991*. Highlights of the Bosch Spark Plug grand prix (9316759)
 3.40 *Rhythms '91 Raag*. Asian music (74883117)
 4.10 *Coach*. American comedy (5344535)
 4.35 *The Hit Man and Her*. Pete Walker and Michaela Strachan introduce the latest on the club scene (8585136)
 5.30 *ITN Morning News* (26339). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 *Jayce and the Wheelers*. Animated adventures (5) (2466161) 6.25 *Eureka's Castle*. Music and cartoons for the under-fives (5) (5509709) 6.55 *CrossTalk*. What makes a good party and who needs school uniforms? (5) (8344971) 7.55 *Sweet and Glory*. Politics in sport (5) (8344971) 8.00 *News World Sport*. International sports news (8344971) 8.05 *News Summary* (7302548) 8.15 *Reading the Morning Line* (8042890) 10.00 *Quadrant*. Will Buckley introduces the sports quiz where journalists from rival national newspapers try to outwit each other. Today the Mail on Sunday take on the Daily Mail (5) (45105)
 10.30 *Gazzetta Football Italia*. Paul Gascoigne introduces action from the Italian league (66703)
 11.30 *American Football*. Mick Luckhurst and Gary Imlach present highlights of the first week's action in the new NFL season (2299155)
 11.55 *The Log Driver's Waltz*. Canadian cartoon (4854548)
 12.00 *Get Smart*. Spoof spy-series starring Don Adams (38277)
 12.30 *Songs and Memories*. Zennine Sarraf presents a new series in which stars from India and Pakistan select their favourite film clips and talk about the memories they invoke. This week Amitabh Bachchan, the angry young man of the Bombay film industry during the 1970s, talks about his film career (77600)
 1.00 *Film: Mad Max* (1993, b/w). Banal thriller starring Edward G. Robinson as a man who vows vengeance when he is sent into signing a confession which sends him back to prison. Directed by H.C. Potter (51425)
 2.30 *When Tim Rich*. Classic British animation (9445600)
 2.35 *Channel 4 Racing from Ayr and the Curragh* introduced by Derek Thompson. The 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.15 (Ladbrokes Gold Cup) races from Ayr; and the 3.15, 3.55 (Jefferson Smurfit Memorial Irish St Leger) and 4.45 races from the Curragh (8934495)
 5.05 *Brookside*. Omnibus edition. (Teletext) (5) (5515971)
 6.30 *The Big B*. Martin Duffy presents the final of the wheelchair basketball competition between the Sheffield Steelers and the Milton Keynes Aces. (Teletext) (5) (819)
 7.00 *The World This Week* presented by Sheena McDonald. On the eve of Estonia's first free election, a look at the 40% of the population who do not yet have the right to vote, most of whom are Russians; and a report on child labour laws in Portugal (7428)



The trappings of rural life: one boy and his pony (8.00pm)

- 8.00 *Children of Eskdale*
 ● CHOICE: The second of Barry Cockcroft's films about rural life in Yorkshire follows John Raw, his wife and their five children as they work their small rented farm. The programme was first shown in 1973 and inspired a follow-up 15 years later. The Cockrofts' style, not much in fashion these days, is to stand back and let the words and images speak for themselves. There is no commentary and thanks to Cockcroft's unobtrusive but acute observation none is needed. Nor does he need great events to sustain the narrative. Children of Eskdale is built around everyday incidents: the work in the fields, dad's success with the local darts team, the eldest daughter getting ready for her first dance. The biggest question is whether the family can afford a pony for the children as well as replacing its 16-year-old tractor. (Teletext) (5) (9074)
 9.00 *Court TV: America on Trial*. Cynthia McFadden presents extracts of American trials. They include the case of a man who strangled his wife but has changed his plea to not guilty on the ground that in killing her he committed spiritual suicide (5) (9838)
 10.00 *Let the Blood Run Free*. Anarchic medical soap opera from Australia. At last Nurse Elsie's love is reciprocated. (Teletext) (5) (35946)
 10.30 *Film: Alias La Gringa* (1991). Powerful Peruvian thriller about an outlaw who, after escaping from a top security prison, risks everything to help the man who saved his life. Directed by Alberto Duran (9441722)
 12.25am *Australian Rules Football*. Antipodean action (8627440).
 1.25 *The Twilight Zone: The Bard*. A hack television writer conjures up Shakespeare's help (1336285). Ends at 2.10

SATellite

- Via the Astra and Hotbird satellites
 6.00am *Danger Bay* (04105) 6.30 *Elephant Boy* (48797) 7.00 *Fun Factory* (500229) 7.30 *Cartoon* (72757) 8.00 *The Magician* (59006) 8.30 *News* (59190) 8.40 *Iron Horse* (25797) 9.00 *WWF Superstars of Wrestling* (4451) 9.30 *Fishin'* (51549) 9.40 *Booker* (15180) 9.50 *Unsung Mysteries* (57380) 10.00 *Cops* (127108) 10.30 *Cops* (127108) 10.50 *Film: Blood Sport*. Starring Ian McEwan (45631) 12.00 *Pages from Skyline*
 ● Via the Astra and Hotbird satellites
 6.00am *Survivor* (513033) 8.30 *Nightline* (57600) 10.30 *Financial Times Media Europe*
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SKY NEWS

- Via the Astra and Hotbird satellites
 6.00am *Survivor* (513033) 8.30 *Nightline* (57600) 10.30 *Financial Times Media Europe*

SKY MOVIES+

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